THE TIMES

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Mission to free trapped monitors

SAS ready for rescue in Kosovo

By Michael Evans, Defence Editor

A SUBSTANTIAL force of SAS troops is on alert to mount a "high risk" rescue operation in Kosovo if any unarmed international monitors in the Yugoslav province are taken hostage.

The decision to enlist the SAS for hostage-rescue in Kosovo came after Brigadier-General Marcel Valentin, the French commander of Nato's extraction force based in the neighbouring Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said his 2,300 soldiers would be incapable of carrying out such a specialist operation.

The Government has given its approval for a proposed Nato special forces' unit, "several hundred strong", to be led by a senior British officer, and the bulk of the force is to be provided by the SAS, although other countries can contribute if required when an emergency arises.

The SAS sent more than 300 troops to the Gulf War in 1991 but this new operation is expected to be the largest formation of Special Air Service soldiers for a hostage-rescue mission. The hostage-rescue expertise of the Hereford-based SAS is renowned throughout the world, especially after the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege.

If groups of Kosovo-based verifiers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were to be taken hostage either by Serb forces or Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas, the SAS would be flown to the region to prepare for a rescue.

The OSCE team is currently 750-strong but is building up to a total of 2,000 personnel, many of them military or ex-military. Britain is providing 200.

Although the present Nato extraction force is based in Macedonia, permission has not yet been sought from the Government in Skopje for any further deployments of Nato troops on Macedonian territory. However, it remains the most likely base for a rescue operation.

When Nato began planning late last year for an extraction force to be based in Macedonia, it was always envisaged that a special forces' team would be needed if hostages were taken.

Nato sources said that the French-led force, originally to be 1,800-strong but now expanded to 2,300, was never going to be suitably equipped for mounting any operation in a really hostile environment.

The sources said it was planned to be a force that could go over the border to evacuate the OSCE verifiers in "a benign environment" and to carry out medical evacuations. The force is equipped with helicopters and armoured vehicles.

The structure and mandate for the extraction unit was also supposed to provide reassurance to President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, that Nato was not building an invasion force, alliance sources said.

However, since the massacre of the 45 Albanians by Serb forces, Nato has had to bring forward plans for two other potential military operations.

Apart from the special forces' hostage-rescue team, a third tier is now under consideration which would involve the deployment of between 8,000 and 10,000 Nato troops, including British, to evacuate the whole OSCE verification team from Kosovo if there is all-out war. Nato sources said the large force would be backed by artillery and ground support aircraft.

If Nato Governments decide to launch airstrikes to punish Belgrade for the weekend massacre, it is likely that the OSCE verifiers would be told to leave. In the event of any violent opposition to their withdrawal, Nato would have to decide how to guarantee their safety. General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme allied commander Europe, who met Mr Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday, is expected to brief the North Atlantic Council in Brussels this week on the three-tier proposals.

In the Commons yesterday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that British aircraft could be mobilised within days should Nato decide to mount airstrikes.

Belgrade warned, page 13
Simon Jenkins, page 18

ROBERT A. READER/REUTERS

Secret weapon: Nicole Seligman is one of two women on the President's defence team

Clinton's Ally McBeal takes on the Senators

From Damian Whitworth in Washington

SHE has been dubbed President Clinton's secret weapon. An attractive, high-powered lawyer who will blow away the grey-haired men bent on removing him from office.

As the White House began its defence of Mr Clinton in the impeachment trial last night, the woman nicknamed his Ally McBeal was waiting in the wings.

Nicole Seligman, 42, is one of two women lawyers expected to provide a marked contrast with the 13 Republican prosecutors who presented the case against Mr Clinton. The other, Cheryl Mills, is a brilliant black lawyer who joined Mr Clinton's legal team when he entered the White House.

In reality, depicting Ms Seligman as a real-life Ally McBeal is not entirely accurate. Her attractive looks are matched by an incisive legal brain, but she is far more devastatingly ruthless in court than the television character.

George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's former spokesman, coined the "secret weapon" tag and other Clinton advisers have said they are in awe of her talents. "There's velvet on the outside and there's hard rock on the inside," said Lanny Davis, a former White House lawyer. "She can be tough and yet she can turn very charming and feminine, which takes a witness by surprise. So if she doesn't get them one way, she'll get them another," said Brendan Sullivan, who led Oliver North's defence team during the Iran-Contra scandal. Ms Seligman helped to defend Mr North — and in the courtroom was mistaken for his daughter by some commentators. A graduate of Harvard Law School whose best friend is President Kennedy's daughter Caroline Kennedy, she edited the prestigious *Harvard Review* and worked briefly for the *Wall Street Journal* before a stint at the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. She then joined Williams & Connolly, where she teamed up with with David Kendall, Mr Clinton's chief personal lawyer.

Ms Seligman has worked repeatedly for Mrs Clinton during the Whitewater investigations and for most of last year was working on the Monica Lewinsky affair. She was the only woman present when Mr Clinton gave his Grand Jury testimony via closed circuit television in the White House.

Although Charles Ruff, the chief White House lawyer and a veteran of the Watergate prosecution, opened the defence yesterday, Ms Seligman is expected to play a key role in proceedings. Ms Mills, 33, who knows the Clinton regime inside out and has been another force behind the scenes, is also expected to take a central role in the Senate chamber, perhaps outlining Mr Clinton's version of events surrounding the retrieval of gifts he had given to Ms Lewinsky.

As the White House tried to assemble a bigger team for a defence presentation that could take up to the 24 hours allotted, it suffered one setback when Rick Boucher, a Democratic representative, said that he was not available to help. Former Senate majority leader George Mitchell, the chairman of the Northern Ireland peace process, was also mentioned as one who would try to convince the 100 Senators not to convict Mr Clinton on the two articles of impeachment.

The defence strategy is to attack the facts in the prosecution case and insist that even if those facts are true, they do not justify his removal from office because the offences do not rise to the level of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanours", the constitutional standard for impeachment and conviction.

Fresh polls yesterday showed that 61 percent of Americans thought Mr Clinton should not be convicted, while his approval rating remained at 69 per cent.

Prison on cards for Aitken after he admits libel case perjury

By Michael Horsnell

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, yesterday faced the threat of a lengthy prison sentence after admitting at the Central Criminal Court charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice.

The disgraced former Tory high-flyer confessed to drawing up a false witness statement which he persuaded his teenage daughter Victoria to sign to support his lies during his unsuccessful High Court libel action against *The Guardian* and Granada TV.

His civil action in June 1997 centred on the allegation by the newspaper and the TV company that he had stayed at the Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1993 at the expense of prominent Saudi Arabian friends while serving as Minister for Defence Procurement.

Aitken, 56, will be sentenced in June at the conclusion of the trial of his co-defendant and former business associate Said Ayas.

For acts intended to pervert the course of justice, the maximum sentence is life and, for perjury, up to seven years.

Said Ayas has yet to enter pleas to charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, and doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice.

Aitken, of Lord North Street, Westminster, central London, denied two further charges — alleging conspiracy with his ex-wife Lolicia and Said Ayas to pervert the course of justice, and doing acts tending and intending to pervert the course of justice.

Crown counsel David Waters accepted those not guilty pleas and the Recorder of London Michael Hyam ordered the two counts to lie on file.

Aitken, who arrived at the Old Bailey with his mother, Lady Aitken, served under John Major, first as Defence Procurement Minister and then as First Secretary to the Treasury, which post he resigned to fight his libel action. When the action collapsed, he was left with a £2 million legal bill.

Aitken, who lost his seat as Tory MP for Thanet, Kent, at the general election, was divorced last year from his wife by whom he has twin daugh

Continued on Page 4, col 5



Aitken: will not know his fate until June



"Cheer up — it's not nearly as bad as Jonathan Aitken's"

England are back onside

England were readmitted to the Five Nations rugby union championship less than 24 hours after being expelled from the competition over a television deal. Their opening match against Scotland will go ahead as planned on February 20 .... Page 44

BAe accused

British Aerospace was said to have damaged European cooperation by its £7 billion merger with GEC's Marconi Electronic Systems.... Page 23

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Public to choose 'people's peers'

By Philip Webster and James Landale

THE public is to be given the power to nominate "people's peers" under proposals published today to scrap the rights of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

People will be able to write to the new independent appointments commission which will choose crossbench peers for the interim House of Lords once hereditary peers are banished to the shires.

Tony Blair has decided that the practice introduced by John Major of allowing the public to nominate people for honours in the twice-yearly lists should be extended.

The "people's lords" will be those chosen by the commission in addition to peers nominated by political parties. Mr Blair is to give up his power to veto the names put forward by other parties although he will keep the right to say how many should come from each.

The death knell will sound today for the 750 hereditary peers when the Bill abolishing their voting powers and a White Paper setting up a royal commission to recommend the shape of a new second chamber are published.

They will also lose their "club rights" to use the restaurants and bars at the Lords. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said at the weekend that the Bill would mean for the hereditary peerage an end to "living like a lord at the taxpayers' expense". The royal commission, expected to be chaired by Lord Butler of Brockwell, will be asked to report by the end of the year.

The deal that led to the sacking of Viscount Cranborne as Tory leader in the Lords — allowing 91 hereditary peers to survive in the interim stage — will not be included in the Bill, but added as an amendment as it passes through the Lords.

Lord Cranborne will today speak in the Lords for the first time since he was sacked. He is likely to urge peers to accept the deal he secured for them.



Film about 'selfish' du Pré outrages musicians

By Susie Steiner

SIX classical musicians, including the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and the violinist Lord Menuhin, have written to The Times today expressing outrage at a new film about the life of Jacqueline du Pré.

The film *Hilary and Jackie*, which is to have its premiere today, chronicles the life of du Pré and portrays her as selfish, spoilt and manipulative, according to the musicians. "This is not the Jacqueline du Pré that we, as her friends and colleagues, knew," the letter says.

Mr Lloyd Webber and Lord Menuhin are joined in their anger by Itzhak Perlman, William Pleeth, Mstislav Rostropovich and Pinchas Zukerman, all of whom worked with du Pré.

Her solo cello performances, particularly of Elgar, in the 1960s made du Pré famous and inspired Mr Lloyd Webber's own career as a cellist; her early death from multiple sclerosis made her turbulent life a focus for scrutiny.

The film, in which du Pré is portrayed by Emily Watson, focuses on the cellist's affair with her sister's husband Kiffer, which was said to be condoned by Hilary to safeguard her sister's fragile emotional state. Watson has been nominated for a Golden Globe for her part in the film, which is based on a book by du Pré's sister and her brother Piers, entitled *A Genius in the Family*.

But *Hilary and Jackie* discredits du Pré, according to her supporters. "Jacqueline possessed a wonderful joy in making music and a unique ability to bring that joy to her audience. This is the Jacqueline du Pré that we remember," the letter says.

Lord Menuhin knew du Pré well and his daughters were among her best friends; the violinist Itzhak Perlman also worked closely with her.

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Cinema, page 33



du Pre: six defenders

Thing gives Blair a helping Hand from the back benches



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Aficionados of the Addams Family movies will be familiar with a creature called Thing. It is a disembodied hand. It scuttles around the Addamses' creepy mansion doing the family's dirty work. Need a tap fixing, a corpse burying, a mess shovelling under the carpet or a cat throttling in the night? Thing will fix it.

Big-suited Gomez Addams, the head of the household, relies implicitly on the Hand. So does his wife, the palely cadaverous Morticia. How Gomez reminds me of Tony Blair.

At Foreign Office Questions yesterday, a Hand appeared, a man's hand, just before the first question on Europe. This sketchwriter could not say whether the Hand was unattached because, were there a body in tow, its owner had placed himself in the least visible spot in the chamber.

Let me explain. The press sits in a balcony over one end of the chamber, arranged like a shallow dress circle above the Speaker's chair. Only the tops of the heads of MPs at this end are visible. The chair is crowned with a huge canopy, blocking views of the benches beneath and creating a blind spot on one bench on the government side. Its occupant is invisible to almost all the press: invisible to me.

But I could see a Hand. A right Hand. Visible only from the wrist, like Thing.

The Hand appeared some way into Questions yesterday, and settled, fingers fanned, on the edge of the seat. Horrified, I watched it. It seemed to be intently following ministers' answers: tensing, fidgeting, relaxing ... depending on what they said. No name, no face, but a weird sense of responsibility, control. We have heard of the Minister Without Portfolio (one such, with his Dome, was famous), but now, fretting here on the green leather, seemed to be a Portfolio Without Minister.

And it was with European policy that the Hand looked most concerned. It missed the exchanges on St Helena, ignored Kosovo, and arrived just in time to hear Norman Godman (Lab, Greenock & Inverclyde) ask about the enlargement of the European Union.

The Hand looked relaxed about a careful reply from the minister, Joyce Quinn. But when a leftwinger, Jeremy Corbyn (Lab, Islington N) rose, it scratched angrily at the seat panel. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) shouted "When does Albania get in?" The Hand scratched harder.

Andrew Mackinlay (Lab, Thurrock) complained that too few members of the Government were visiting the aspirant members of the EU. Fingers on the Hand quivered. Would it like to visit them, representing the Prime Minister?

The Tories' Michael Howard asked a muscular question about joining the euro. The Hand scrabbled impatiently on the bench.

Discussion moved to India and Kashmir. The Hand stretched lazily, fingers outstretched and at rest. When immigration, Iraq and the Middle East were raised, the Hand became bored, drumming fingers. When questions turned to "ethics" in foreign policy the Hand lost interest and curled up.

I glanced at my order paper: Burma, Basra, Nigeria ... no more questions on Europe seemed likely to be reached. Perhaps the Hand had made a similar calculation. It rose into the air above the bench. Then, hovering left toward the door, moved from my vision, hidden by the canopy over the Speaker's chair.

I leapt up. Dashing to a corner from which the Hand's exit might be visible, I strained to see.

Someone was hurrying out. It was Peter Mandelson, pale and tense. The Hand was with him.

Lords to ask Cook for Pinochet dates

Crown argues that immunity cannot cover all crimes, writes **Joanna Bale**

THE law lords confirmed yesterday that they are to seek clarification from Robin Cook over the date on which General Pinochet was recognised as head of state, in what could be a key piece of evidence.

The move comes amid claims by the Crown Prosecution Service on behalf of Spain that the former dictator could not claim state immunity for some of the crimes alleged against him because they were committed before he took on the role.

As the new panel of seven law lords convened for a second day yesterday, its chairman, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, said: "We discussed it overnight and thought it was desirable to have the Foreign Office's view if they are able to give it. It may or may not be vital, but it would be helpful."

Lord Browne-Wilkinson also asked Alun Jones, QC, for the CPS, to prepare overnight a document outlining his "heavily revised case" alleging that General Pinochet, along with other public officials, was involved in a conspiracy to torture others even before he seized power.

Once again accompanied by the Spanish investigating judge Baltasar Garzón, Mr Jones went on to argue that only a limited number of functions of a head of state were regarded as attracting immunity under international law. He said: "Those functions are confined to state visits, signing treaties, and the sending and receiving of diplomats."

If countries chose to give their head of state more functions, they did not merit immunity. "Individual states may allocate other powers to them, but, if a person who is head of state holds other portfolios, they are not recognised in international law as the functions of a head of state, and are not therefore functions in respect of which he enjoys immunity after he has retired," Mr Jones said.

He acknowledged that a head of state was widely regarded as enjoying absolute immunity while in power, but the position changed after he left office.

Mr Jones argued that some acts, such as offences against humanity and war crimes, had been recognised as crimes under international law long before 1973 and the basis of various international conventions covering human rights and abuses of them was clear.

He said: "It must be that, no matter who you are, whether you are a head of state, a government official, a public official, you have individual, personal responsibility in respect of a category of crimes recognised internationally as particularly odious, such as genocide, torture, and taking hostages. Somewhere a line has to be drawn between actions which are the functions of a head of state, and those which are not."

In a situation in which the United Kingdom was declining to put General Pinochet on trial in this country, it had an obligation to extradite him to Spain under the international Convention against Torture, and under the European Extradition Act, he added. Chile itself, he pointed out, ratified the torture convention in 1988. Its own 1925 constitution forbade the use of torture.

Professor Christopher Greenwood, dealing with the legal issues raised by the Spanish extradition request, then addressed the question of whether national courts, such as those of Spain, had jurisdiction over internationally recognised crimes. He said that, as yet, there was no international tribunal at which to try people accused of such crimes. But he told the law lords that there was "the very clearest guidance" that, certainly since the Second World War, national courts had increasingly been asserting jurisdiction over crimes such as torture.

Last November, a different panel of law lords ruled that the former dictator was not immune, but that decision was set aside when it was held that the link of one of the judges, Lord Hoffmann, with Amnesty International, should have disqualified him from sitting.

Among those present at the new hearing, which continues today, is Mario Artaza, the Chilean Ambassador. He has been sent back to London to ensure that his Government's case is properly presented. He was recalled to Santiago last month in protest at the Home Secretary's decision to allow extradition proceedings.

BRITAIN'S ONLY 'POLITICAL PRISONER'

Baroness Thatcher has described as "excellent" a pamphlet written by her senior aide which claims that General Pinochet has been "kidnapped" by Britain and is being held as a political prisoner. Dr Robin Harris yesterday launched his pamphlet, *A Tale of Two Chileans: Pinochet and Allende*, at the Howard Hotel in London. Dr Harris exonerated the General from all alleged war crimes. Dr Harris was joined by Conservatives including Lord Lamont of Lerwick, Sir Ray Whitney and Nicholas and Ann Winterton. The launch was attended by supporters who had flown from Chile for the law lords' hearing. Dr Harris said: "Abuses were committed but under whose authority it is not clear. Pinochet saved his country from a Marxist dictatorship."



PAUL ROGERS

William Cuthbert leaving the Commons after appearing before MPs yesterday

Bitter pill for GP as he is 'named and shamed'

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE first GP to be "named and shamed" before MPs yesterday admitted that he felt guilty about his treatment of a dying elderly woman who was unable to swallow her pain-killing morphine tablets.

William Cuthbert, who is a family doctor in Wolverhampton, expressed deep remorse as he appeared yesterday before the Commons Public Administration Select Committee. A complaint against him by the daughter of the woman, who died within 24 hours, was upheld by the Health Services Ombudsman in his first case questioning a doctor's clinical judgment.

Dr Cuthbert took a coach from Wolverhampton to attend yesterday's 11am hearing but it arrived late. The hearing was adjourned until 11.30am when the GP arrived red-faced and clearly embarrassed by his delay.

Michael Buckley, the ombudsman, told MPs he believed that the doctor's behaviour "fell well short of the professional service which the patient and her family had a right to expect".

Dr Cuthbert spoke candidly about his poor relationship with the dying woman's daughter and admitted that this was why he almost treated her call "with a pinch of salt". He said that the experience had made him more vigilant: "I now look out for banana skins."

The episode began on a Saturday morning — June 22, 1997. Dr Cuthbert was shopping when he was contacted by his out-of-hours message service to say that Mrs X, his patient's daughter, said her mother could not swallow her morphine tablets and could they have a syringe-driver, which acts like a drip to deliver drugs.

Mrs X said she also told the message service she had been in contact with the local hospice which was willing to lend her a syringe-driver if the doctor gave it a telephone call authorising the assistance.

Dr Cuthbert said he was never told about the offer from the hospice but admitted that the daughter was "particularly demanding" and often said that her mother was unable to do something or needed a particular piece of apparatus, when she did not. "I suppose I did almost take the call with a pinch a salt because she was complaining about a lot of things her mother couldn't do. It's possible that it could have clouded my judgment.

"I feel guilty. I feel I could have done better, but I feel there was a poor lack of communication." He apparently told the telephonist to tell the family they would have to "manage somehow" through the weekend — a phrase Dr Cuthbert denied using.

Mrs X called the out-of-hours service again that day and the on-call locum visited the house and gave the patient a morphine injection, but she died the next morning.

Ronnie Campbell, Labour MP for Blyth Valley, said: "If you knew the patient was seriously ill and in great pain, when you got that sort of message, don't you think it would have been your duty to go and see the patient straight away?"

Dr Cuthbert said: "With hindsight, yes."

He added that he had since apologised to Mrs X several times.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour MP leaves wife of 30 years

A Labour MP has left his wife of 30 years for another woman. Denis Murphy, the member for the Northumberland constituency of Wansbeck, admitted yesterday that he had been involved in a relationship with Grace Boyle for "some time". Before being elected in 1997, Mr Murphy, 49, led the controlling Labour group on Wansbeck District Council, where Miss Boyle works in the administration department.

Last October David Clelland, the Labour MP for Tyne Bridge, confirmed that he had left his wife of 33 years, Maureen, after admitting a relationship with his secretary, Brenda Graham.

Millennium call

The millennium celebrations should begin with Midnight Mass at Christmas rather than on December 31, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, said. "The crib will always be more important than the Dome," he told an interdenominational service.

Law overturned

The European Court has overturned a Greek criminal law, ruling it incompatible with the Treaty of Rome. The judges acknowledged that in principle criminal laws were for nations alone, but Greece could not expel convicted drug users for life as that breached freedom of movement for EU citizens.

Lawrence action

The second-in-command of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry will face disciplinary action despite announcing his retirement, the Metropolitan Police said last night. Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, 49, will go before a tribunal on March 22. He has been accused of neglect of duty.

Royal E-mail



The Royal Mail launched its first stamp with a flat rate to send letters across the Continent and beyond. The stamp, above, costs 30p and is valid from Britain to more than 50 countries, including Tajikstan and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The price is replaced by a small E in the bottom-left-hand corner.

Inner-city schools criticised by Blair

By Hannah Betts

TONY BLAIR was criticised yesterday for undermining teachers after he said he understood parents who refused to send their children to inner-city schools.

Head teachers accused him of giving parents licence to ignore their local comprehensive schools.

Mr Blair's comments came days after it was announced that the Blairs' youngest child, Kathryn, is to follow her two brothers by attending a secondary school several miles from the family home.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today*, Mr Blair said: "When I look at some of the inner-city schools it is no wonder parents feel they have to move their children out." Mr Blair later reinforced his condemnation of inner-city schools in a debate with teachers on the Government's new £60 million performance-related pay scheme.

The Prime Minister told teachers at Moulsham High School in Chelmsford, Essex: "I know from my own experience that there's not enough understanding in this country of the fundamental importance of getting the system right."

John Dunford, general secretary of the School Heads' Association, said: "This is the sort of self-fulfilling prophecy that makes it difficult for schools to succeed in the inner cities. The Prime Minister should be leading the state education system, not undermining it."

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, and Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, were also in Chelmsford to anounce that teachers who pass annual appraisals will be paid up to £35,000. There will also be £60 million a year to fund bonuses to schools that achieved good or improving results.

Wales may lose voice in Cabinet

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

WALES could lose its voice at the Cabinet table after the creation of the Welsh assembly. The end of the office of Welsh Secretary was signalled yesterday at a meeting of the Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee.

Rachel Lomax, Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, hesitated when she was asked by Julian Lewis, a Conservative MP, whether she would join him in a bet that there would be a Secretary of State within ten years. "All sorts of things could happen in ten years," she said.

Her reticence was not lost on MPs and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, said: "The really interesting job is that of First Secretary in the assembly. The role of Secretary of State will develop."

Tacit admission that the role of Welsh Secretary was under threat was seized on by Opposition MPs who believe that Tony Blair's plans for devolution could lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom. Rod Richards, leader of the Welsh Conservative Party, said: "This has let the cat out of the bag. This just shows that the office of Secretary of State is on death row."

Suspicions were heightened by news that only 24 civil servants will work for the Welsh Secretary after devolution, while 1,800 officials will work for the assembly which is to cost £120 million in its first year.

Ms Lomax insisted that after the assembly elections on May 6 the Welsh Secretary would still have to be responsible for any primary legislation at Westminster, would sit in the Cabinet, attend Cabinet committees, and represent Wales in any European negotiations.

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TV chat show guest ends up in the dock

Viewer says man she saw chatting to Richard and Judy is a removal conman. Adam Fresco reports

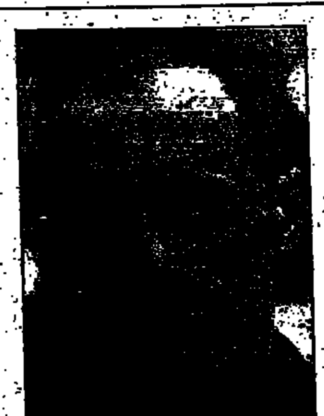
A WEALTHY businesswoman who turned on her television to watch the Richard and Judy chat show recognised their guest as a removal man who had driven off with £60,000 worth of her possessions six years earlier, a court was told yesterday.

Pamela McMahon had been moving home with the help of John Parsons in 1992 when he allegedly stole a haul including gold rings, necklaces and other items studded with precious stones valued at £30,000, her prized collection of china and crystal, a new hi-fi system and a number of antique paintings, none of which was insured.

Miss McMahon, an American, first spotted Mr Parsons, who at the time called himself Damien West, a few months later, but was too scared to approach him, Southwark Crown Court was told. She thought that she would never see him again.

But in June last year when Miss McMahon switched on ITV's *This Morning* programme, she was saw him happily chatting to Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan. She contacted ITV and the police, who traced the man to Manchester where he had changed his name.

Mr Parsons, 44, from Manchester, who denies one charge of theft between February and March 1992, insisted that he was innocent. He agreed that he had helped her to move home but said that the theft was "absolutely nothing" to do with him.



Parsons: denies playing any part in the theft

Miss McMahon said that she met Mr Parsons after arriving in London to manage a Mayfair apartment block. She was staying in one of the luxury flats as she and her brothers made inquiries about buying the development, but the deal fell through so she decided to move to Chelsea.

Mr Parsons was the maintenance man at the Mayfair apartments and offered to help her to move, she said. He hired a van and began loading her belongings. Miss McMahon said that on the day of the move, her suspicions were aroused because he seemed to be acting differently.

"I had the feeing something had gone wrong — it seemed that things were not going to any plan he might have and he seemed a bit agitated."

Nevertheless, she allowed him to finish loading and they drove together to Chelsea. Mr Parsons carried a box of china up to the first-floor flat and suggested that she start unpacking while he parked in a better place, she said. About ten minutes later, she noticed that her handbag containing her wallet, keys and credit cards was missing from the table where she had left it.

Seconds later, she was stunned to realise that the same fate had befallen the rest of the property. It had vanished along with Mr Parsons and the van, the jury was told.

She said: "I checked to see if the van was still there and looked out of the window, but could not see it. I went downstairs for a closer look ... but it had vanished."

Miss McMahon said that she had dialed 999 to report the theft to police, but never saw her belongings again.

The trial continues.

JACK HILL



Pamela McMahon says that she lost jewellery, china and other items worth £60,000

Police worker 'took indecent photographs'

By Russell Jenkins

A PHOTOGRAPHER employed by the police to take pictures of victims of crime took indecent photographs of a woman who alleged that she had been battered, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Sayward, 43, of Lytham, Lancashire, should have seen the 24-year-old woman, who had reported an assault by her boyfriend, at Blackburn police station and confined his attention to bruises on her face, nose and hands.

But he went to her home where he insisted on touching her intimately in order to take photographs of her breasts, and joked about selling the results for a "Page 3" slot.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said that Mr Sayward asked to see any other marks on her body but she told him there was none. However, he asked her to lift her pyjama top and her crop top. She told the court: "I just did what he told me to."

As soon as Mr Sayward left the woman complained to a neighbour and then to police. Several further allegations of indecent assault emerged as a result of a subsequent inquiry into his work.

Mr Sayward spent 18 years in the Merseyside force before retiring and joining the Lancashire Constabulary as a civilian scenes-of-crime photographer. He has pleaded not guilty to three charges of indecent assault.

Chris Knight, for the prosecution, said that Mr Sayward visited the woman in January last year to take straightforward photographs of her injuries. Instead he took "completely unacceptable photographs" of the woman, including a full-frontal view of her exposed breasts.

He steered the conversation towards sex and sought to cuddle or embrace her under the guise of trying to placate her, though she showed no signs of distress.

He also got her to change into the pyjamas she was wearing at the time of the attack, then physically examined her.

The court was told how Mr Sayward photographed another woman assault victim in August 1997. The 23-year-old woman had suffered bruising to her thigh and went to a police station for photographs to be taken. Mr Sayward photographed her with her skirt hitched above her underpants and felt the bruising in an indecent manner.

The third incident involved the 23-year-old's mother. During a visit to the victim's house, Mr Sayward gathered coins that had fallen from the mother's blouse pocket and had brushed his hand against her breast while placing them back.

The trial continues.

Chipperfield 'beat chimp till it cried'

By Helen Johnstone

A MEMBER of the Chipperfield circus dynasty was secretly filmed forcing a sick elephant to perform pirouettes and beating other animals, a court was told yesterday.

The offences alleged against Mary Chipperfield were uncovered when animal-welfare activists infiltrated the farm that she and her husband, Roger Cawley, own in Hampshire and secretly filmed there for several months.

Miss Chipperfield, 61, who appeared before Andover Magistrates' Court yesterday under her married name, Mary Cawley, denies 21 charges relating to animal cruelty and neglect of circus animals between October 1997 and January 1998. Mr Cawley, 64, and joint proprietor of Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd, denies seven charges.

The case had originally been brought by the Animal Defenders charity in a private action but the Crown Prosecution Service took it on after the campaigners produced their evidence. Miss Chipperfield told police that her treatment of the animals was justified to discipline them and she would act in the same way again.

There were gasps from the public gallery as the court was shown footage of a trainer employed by Miss Chipperfield striking an elephant 12 times around the legs and back with a metal rod. One clip showed her briefly watching.

Charles Gabb, for the prosecution, said the evidence suggested that, to the couple, "the ends of training the animals justify the means". He said that, in 1997, Terry Stocker, a member of Animal Defenders, had taken up work at the farm caring for the animals, which included tigers, lions, elephants, bears and camels. He set up three video cameras and carried a body camera.

Another group member, Rachel White, posed as his girlfriend. Video film that they handed to police showed an incident in which Miss Chipperfield beat an 18-month-old chimpanzee called Trudi after it refused to get into its cage.

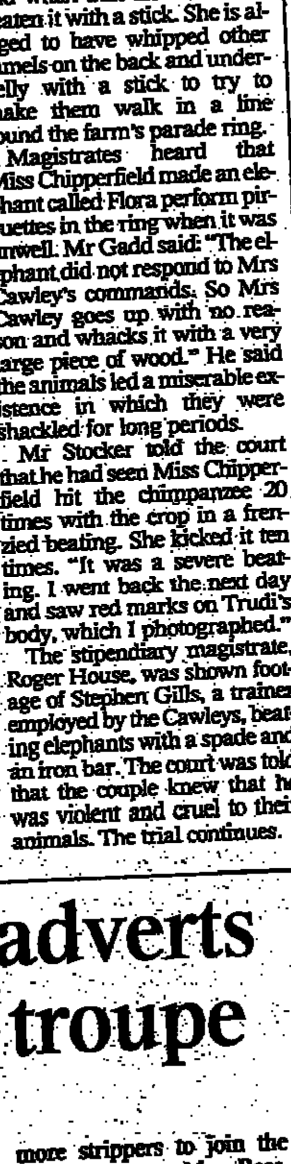
Mr Gabb told the court: "She used a riding crop to beat the chimp. She also kicked it. It shows manifest cruelty by this lady to beat it almost mercilessly and when she leaves it to remove its comforter, an orange ball. You can hear the pitiful, pathetic cries of the chimp and Mrs Cawley is heard to say 'You can bloody cry.'"

She was alleged to have kicked a camel to get it to stand up, and when that failed to have beaten it with a stick. She is alleged to have whipped other camels on the back and underbelly with a stick to try to make them walk in a line round the farm's parade ring.

Magistrates heard that Miss Chipperfield made an elephant called Flora perform pirouettes in the ring when it was unwell. Mr Gadd said: "The elephant did not respond to Mrs Cawley's commands. So Mrs Cawley goes up with no reason and whacks it with a very large piece of wood." He said the animals led a miserable existence in which they were shackled for long periods.

Mr Stocker told the court that he had seen Miss Chipperfield hit the chimpanzee 20 times with the crop in a frenzied beating. She kicked it ten times. "It was a severe beating. I went back the next day and saw red marks on Trudi's body, which I photographed."

The stipendiary magistrate, Roger House, was shown footage of Stephen Gills, a trainer employed by the Cawleys, beating elephants with a spade and an iron bar. The court was told that the couple knew that he was violent and cruel to their animals. The trial continues.



Mary Chipperfield and her husband, who deny the charges

Jobcentre bans adverts for Full Monty troupe

By Simon de Bruxelles

A SUCCESSFUL group of Full Monty-style male strippers has been banned from advertising for new recruits in jobcentres.

The dancers, who perform under the name Centaur and were the subject of a BBC documentary last year, need new members for a nationwide tour. No qualification or experience are required, but shrinking violets need not apply.

Despite offering the successful candidates between £75 and £100 a day, the adverts for "revue dancers" have fallen foul of a Department of Employment ban on jobs in the "sex industry".

In the film *The Full Monty* a group of unemployed men from Sheffield meet at their local job club, decide to take up stripping, and become an overnight sensation. The job club's success is unlikely to be emulated in Centaur's home town, Swansea, where jobcentre managers rigidly abide by the rules.

Centaur's manager, Ritchie Rees, a 34-year-old married father of five, was turned away by both of his local jobcentres, which refused to help find three more strippers to join the four-man team. Mr Rees, who began stripping for a living six years ago, said: "One of the officials was a woman who recognised me from the shows. I thought they were prudes. People are meant to be a bit more open-minded these days."

A Department of Employment spokesman said yesterday: "We are not taking a moral stand or making a value judgment on these jobs, it is just that we do not want to put our clients in a position where they might feel embarrassed or humiliated."

The charming swashbuckler who fell on sword of truth



***Michael Gove** confesses that he was among those dazzled by Jonathan Aitken and is now left to grieve for the man that might have been*

THE fall of Jonathan Aitken is an amorality tale. He has been tantalisingly close to the centre of power, serially intimate with a string of beautiful women, but a lifelong stranger to the truth.

The crime to which he has pleaded guilty, perjury in a civil case, is the same crime of which President Clinton stands accused. Some observers believe that, like President Clinton, this is merely the culmination of a pattern of behaviour.

Well before he ever tasted power, the young Aitken had displayed his curious unfitness for it. He was born with powerful connections and a persuasive manner, the great-nephew of the press baron Lord Beaverbrook. The mix of blue blood and printer's ink in his veins conferred neither a sense of honour nor a respect for the facts.

While still an undergraduate at Oxford, he sought to avoid a particular examination by remarkable means. He bought a dozen oysters, left them for long hours on a heated radiator until they went bad and then swallowed the lot.

Having poisoned himself in this way, he was able convincingly to feign a sudden attack of a mysterious illness and so avoid the examination while winning sympathy. Friends who subsequently reminded him of this ruse were always met with denials.

"It was remarkable," remembered one who followed him into politics. "He refused to recognise the difference between his fictions and reality".

This detachment from the truth mirrored a certain detachment from others. When Aitken was three, he was found to be suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs, which had spread to his bones. He spent much of the next three years of his life immobilised in plaster, strapped to his bed. During his painful early childhood, his mother was often absent, nursing his father, who had been badly injured while on RAF duty during the war. The peculiar isolation of his early years, according to friends, led him to keep others at an emotional distance.

He was to have relationships with a succession of attractive women. He squired Margaret Thatcher's daughter Carol, Lady Antonia Fraser and Arianna Stassinopoulos, as well as conducting an affair with a prostitute who specialised in sado-masochism and fathering a child by Soraya Khashoggi, ex-wife of the arms dealer Adnan. He has said that he did not know the prostitute's profession.

This remarkable rake's progress from Holland Park to Soho by way of Annabel's was indicative of a man for whom commitment was a curse, and fidelity, like so much else, a fiction.

Aitken's sexual conquests were, however, just pitstops on his political journey. Offered a safe Tory seat while still an undergraduate, he lost the opportunity to enter Parliament while still in his twenties after another episode of deceit.

In 1969, while candidate for Thirsk and Malton, he was handed a secret report by a local army officer that revealed the complicity of the Labour Government in the Nigerian civil war. When he was confronted by his informant with the consequences of his exposing the information, Aitken sought to blame his friend and mentor, the Tory MP Hugh Fraser, for the leak.

Unfortunately for Aitken, the officer whose report he had leaked tape-recorded this conversation and his deceit was revealed during a trial under the Official Secrets Act.

Aitken argued that he had been guilty only of "private verbal subtleties". That was enough to secure his acquittal in court. But a habit of ducking the truth when in trouble had been confirmed.

Aitken eventually entered Parliament in 1974, for Thanet in Kent. He made amends of a sort for his treatment of Hugh Fraser by running his friend's campaign for the Tory leadership. That quixotic act recommended Aitken to new friends, but not to the victor of the leadership contest, Margaret Thatcher. Her poor opinion of Aitken was confirmed by his treatment of her daughter.

He was left to deploy his undoubted talents on the backbenches. An early and principled Euroscepticism, and a championing of freedom of information, won him deserved plaudits across the political divide. His eloquence in defence of causes when they were unpopular showed what might have been, if he had been free of his demons. Deprived of power, Aitken sought riches, and he did so in the moral quicksands of the Middle East. Although money flowed to him like oil, it also left a stain on his reputation in the eyes of the fastidious.

> 'It's to be hoped that, having lost so much, he has found those things he has always seemed to lack — a conscience and inner peace'

Those reservations, however, did not stop politicians and journalists, myself included, accepting the hospitality of his salon in Lord North Street. Aitken presided over meetings of the Conservative Philosophy Group in his impressive drawing room with an easy elan, encouraging younger members to joust with the party's grave seniors.

I was charmed by his manner, impressed by his intelligence and dismissive of his critics. His dazzling performance blinded me to the darkness within. I am left to grieve for the man that might have been.

I was not alone in being taken in. John Major sought to repair what he considered Baroness Thatcher's myopic neglect by elevating Aitken to the Cabinet.

Once there, he was tipped for the leadership by normally judicious observers. He clearly enjoyed office, and allowed it to show through his normal reserve. But what lies behind that smile?

Journalistic diligence undid him. That diligence may have been tinged with sharp practice, but it was no sharper than Aitken had practised himself.

Since his disgrace, his friends attest that he has found a peace of sorts in Christianity, after attending an "Alpha" course in the faith. It is to be hoped that having lost so much, he has found those things he has always seemed to lack — a conscience and inner peace.

Before the fall: Jonathan Aitken with his wife, Lolicia, and their children Alexandra, left, Victoria and William at their home in Westminster

Peace offer that could have saved his skin

By Michael Horsnell

SINCE resigning 3½ years ago from John Major's Cabinet to take up his mission armed only with the "simple sword of truth ... to cut out the cancer of bent and twisted journalism", Jonathan Aitken has lost his political career, his marriage and much of his fortune.

The irony that will torment him, however, as he awaits sentence is that he turned down the offer of a peace deal from *The Guardian* before the general election, in which Aitken knew that he was struggling to hold on to his Thanet constituency.

He was offered a "walk away" compromise in which the case would be settled out of court and each side would pay its own costs.

Reliable sources said that at the centre of the deal was the advertising company chief Maurice Saatchi (later Lord Saatchi), an adviser to the Tories and the man who was preparing John Major's last advertising campaign. He had made the suggestion both to Aitken and Alan Rusbridger, editor of *The Guardian*.

A lunch was arranged, but at the last minute the Aitken withdrew, maintaining that it would compromise his position to meet Mr Rusbridger. The lunch went ahead without him, and Mr Rusbridger told Mr Saatchi that the newspaper's evidence would destroy Aitken, even though *The Guardian's* lawyers knew that they were in legal difficulty.

The Editor's suggestion was that a statement could be agreed between the two parties for publication after the election and that each side would pay its own costs — then estimated at £200,000. Mr Saatchi reported back to Aitken, but the MP was determined to have his day in court — for which he was to pay handsomely when his case collapsed.

The evidence that he lied about his "family weekend" at the Ritz in Paris with his wife and daughter was put forward by Wendy Harris of British Airways' security and investigation service.

She said that Mrs Aitken had flown directly from Heathrow to Geneva, so alleging that she could not have paid the £1,000 bill at the Ritz, as her husband testified.

On the long road to his downfall, Aitken avoided being jailed for contempt last October over his unpaid £2 million legal bill after his failed libel action. A notice of motion committing him to jail had been withdrawn by the media outlets after he submitted an affidavit detailing his assets.

But the ignominy has continued to beset him since — his assets have been frozen and his living allowance restricted to £9,000 a month, out of which he has had to pay for the education of his three children. Aitken had wanted to transfer assets, including the couple's ten-bedroom Georgian house in Westminster and land in Australia, to his wife, Lolicia, who divorced him last year.

On the way to his nadir, however, he principally lost the glittering career that had once made him the one of the brightest stars in the Tory firmament.

Aitken bailed

Continued from page 1
ters Victoria and Alexandra, 18, and a son, William, 16.

Judge Hyam renewed bail on condition that Aitken remained at his London residence, surrendered his passport and should not travel in England and Wales without first obtaining permission.

Although she was named in the conspiracy charges, Mrs Aitken, who is now believed to be living in Belgrade, has not been brought before the courts. Victoria Aitken, 18, has been interviewed by detectives; a decision was taken by the Crown Prosecution Service last August not to prosecute her.

The two charges to which Aitken pleaded guilty are:

☐ Perjury : on a day between June 4 and 14, 1997, having been lawfully sworn as a witness in a judicial proceeding ... in which he was plaintiff and Peter Preston, David Pallister, Guardian Newspapers and Granada Television Ltd were defendants, wilfully made a statement material in that proceedings, which he knew to be false, namely that on September 19, 1993 his wife Lolicia Aitken was in Paris and paid to the Ritz hotel the sum of Fr4,257 in part payment of his bill at that hotel.

☐ Doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice: in that he drafted a witness statement in the name of Victoria Aitken and obtained the signature of Victoria Aitken to that statement dated June 17, 1997. The said statement contained a version of events which he knew to be false, namely that Victoria Aitken and Lolicia Aitken had travelled by ferry and train to Paris on September 16, 1993, and stayed overnight in the flat of the daughter of Said Ayas. The statement was submitted to the High Court.

هكذا من الأصل

Judges free man jailed for 14 years

Corruption charges against Yard detectives lead to appeal ruling, reports Stewart Tendler

A MAN serving 14 years in prison for armed robbery was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday as a result of criminal charges brought against Scotland Yard detectives.

George Ellis, 37, from East London, had claimed during his trial that a Flying Squad officer had planted false evidence against him.

The court was told that 25 members of the same squad — who cannot be named for legal reasons — could no longer be witnesses in the case because they had either been charged or suspended, or would have been suspended if they had not retired. None of those charged had yet been tried. More members of the unit might be tainted by the allegations and would risk cross-examination if used as witnesses.

Mr Ellis was cleared of taking part in a £37,500 robbery three years ago. One of the 25 police officers charged was a key officer in Mr Ellis's trial.

John Kelsey-Fry, for the Crown, told the court that new evidence had emerged from two former members of the squad who were now helping Scotland Yard's drive against corruption. As a result, the Crown would not fight the appeal. The two informers would eventually be witnesses. None of the corruption allegations had been proved but at the moment the Crown could not use the 25 as witnesses of truth. He said the prolonged investigations into the allegations of dishonesty would take time but it would be wrong to delay Mr Ellis's appeal.

The court was told that Mr Ellis, who was cleared of another armed robbery charge by the court eight years ago, was convicted largely on the evidence that DNA tests showed that a sample of his saliva matched saliva traces on a bandana worn by a robber.

Stephen Kamlish, for Mr Ellis, said at the trial that there were allegations that the saliva had been planted on the bandana. The officer was called from another part of London to collect the saliva. He went on his own to do a routine job normally done by a non-specialist officer. At the trial he could not explain why he had been called. Mr Kamlish said: "It raises the suspicion he was up to no good."

Quashing Mr Ellis's conviction, Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Maurice Kay and Sir Patrick Russell, said that the Flying Squad officer now charged was "a highly material witness" in the trial.

The saliva was found in a bag thrown away by one of the robbers with £34,000 of the cash. The other £3,500 has never been recovered. Police said one of the robbers escaped with the cash. He was arrested later. The defence claimed the police took the money.

Lord Rose said the officer who collected the saliva had now been charged with dishonesty. Mr Ellis had suggested he had planted the saliva. In the light of subsequent events the conviction could no longer be upheld, Lord Rose said. There was no suggestion there should be a retrial. The court ordered a retrial for Tony Zomparelli, 34, convicted with Mr Ellis and jailed for 12 years.

Outside court, Mr Ellis called on Scotland Yard to scrap the Flying Squad. He said he had been wrongly convicted twice and sentenced to a total of 27 years in prison. "I am devastated by what has happened and I plan to sue."



ANDRE CAMARA

George Ellis with his son Georgie. He said yesterday: "I am devastated by what has happened and I plan to sue"

Lightning hit twice for 'vendetta victim'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE ELLIS might have felt a sense of déjà vu yesterday as he left the Court of Appeal after being freed from his 14-year jail sentence. Eight years ago the court quashed another armed robbery conviction against him also brought by Scotland Yard's Flying Squad.

Mr Ellis, who has been on bail since last autumn, believes that he was the victim of a police vendetta and corruption. He admits that he is no angel: he had started a career of crime by the age of 11. But his only record for armed robbery was 18 years ago and he pleaded guilty.

His present troubles began in 1987 when he was arrested near the scene of an £8,000 bank robbery. His first trial collapsed after the jury was given copies of papers used by his lawyer including his record. The second trial went ahead and he was jailed for seven years before his lawyers were told that an officer's prints had been found on the papers. In 1991 he won an appeal.

"I thought that after that there was no way they would come after me," he said. Then 2½ years ago he was arrested in Woodford, East London, four miles from the scene of a £37,500 robbery.

The case rested on saliva samples matched to a bandana worn by one of the robbers. He claimed the sample could have been smeared on the bandana.

Once again there was retrial. This time someone had walked past two of the first jury and told them they should acquit. Mr Ellis claims the police wanted to stop the trial because his case was going too well. At a second trial he and two other men were convicted.

Inside prison, Mr Ellis heard of the first arrests by Scotland Yard in its anti-corruption drive and asked his lawyer to check whether any of the officers in his case were involved. Nine months later he was told the Crown Prosecution Service would not fight an appeal. One of the officers faced corruption charges.

Mr Ellis, of Bethnal Green, East London, said: "I am sick. I have served 2½ years for something I have not done. I have no confidence in the corruption drive. Give it a couple of years and they will still be up to the same thing."

Bristol inquiry 'is not a trial'

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INQUIRY into the high death rate among child heart patients at Bristol Royal Infirmary is intended to identify minimum acceptable standards for operations and best practice for carrying them out.

Ian Kennedy, the inquiry chairman, said: "It will not be a trial. We are not seeking to apportion blame. We are aiming to discover what happened in Bristol, why it happened, and seeing if there are lessons to be learned which will benefit the NHS as a whole."

The inquiry was ordered by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, after a General Medical Council hearing severely criticised two surgeons for continuing to perform complex operations on babies even though they knew too many of them were dying.

The chief executive of the hospital trust, who was also a doctor, was condemned for failing to use his authority to stop the operations, although he had been alerted to what was happening.

The GMC hearing was restricted to 59 cases of babies on whom two types of operation were performed between February 1988 and January 1995. The public inquiry is to examine hundreds of operations of different types performed on infants between 1984 and 1995.

The GMC struck off James Wisheart, the senior consultant, and John Roylance, chief executive of the hospital trust. Janardan Dhasmana, the other consultant surgeon, was banned from operating on children for three years and was later dismissed from his job.

Mr Roylance, the only one of the three to appeal against the GMC decision, yesterday lost an attempt to force the council to hand over a transcript of the private deliberations between members about the case.

Smear test errors 'hit confidence'

BY RICHARD DUCE

PUBLIC confidence in cancer screening for women has been dented by blunders at a Kent hospital which falsely gave the all-clear to hundreds of patients, a professor told the High Court yesterday.

Thomas Krausz was called as an expert witness for three women who developed cancer and are now infertile after screeners at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital failed to notice abnormal cells during routine smear tests.

Professor Krausz, an honorary consultant at Hammersmith Hospital in West London, said that after checking the slides himself he believed that the screeners should have spotted the abnormalities.

Sandra Penney, 36, Helen Palmer, 36, and Lesley Cannon, 39, are seeking to prove that the East Kent Health Authority is liable. The hearing at Canterbury continues today.

Hague pledges to remake Tories

Conservative leader tells his party it must embrace the modern 'brassy Britain', writes Philip Webster

WILLIAM HAGUE promised last night to remould the Conservatives as a modern forward-looking alternative to new Labour that would avoid harking back to past glories and embrace the country as it is today and will be in future.

In the most comprehensive statement he has given of his political philosophy, Mr Hague accepted that the Tories would have to take on and beat Labour on some of its most favoured territory if he was to achieve another "great Conservative revival".

The party faced a huge cultural change. "We must never be the nostalgia party. We must do more than grudgingly accept Britain here and now: we must celebrate it."

Outlining for the first time the key policy areas that will be reviewed over the coming months as he attempts to present a new agenda for Britain, Mr Hague acknowledged that winning battles over efficiency and the economy would no longer be enough.

Instead the Conservatives would have to win battles over generosity, charity, compassion, tolerance, fairness, social institutions and the community, all areas that Tony Blair has claimed.

Mr Hague used his speech to the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies to flesh out his credo of the British Way, which he claimed was threatened by Mr Blair's Third Way philosophy. "The Prime Minister is in effect holding a dagger at the heart of what it is to be British," he said. "If he is left to carry on unchecked he will drive it right through that heart."

The task of the Tories was to offer the British people an alternative — "a British way for the 21st century that is founded on the experiences of the British people, a British way that builds on what is strong about Britain rather than trying to rebrand us or turn us into something else".

But to succeed the Tories had to embrace the Britain of the future. "Not just the sleepy villages, polite manners, friendly vicars and novels of Scott and Austen that have always been Britain." They had

> 'We must never be the nostalgia party ... we must celebrate Britain here and now'

to embrace the Britain of "big industrial cities and housing estates, the Britain proud of its world-class designers and good restaurants, the Britain where hundreds of thousands go to the Notting Hill carnival and the Eisteddfod, the Britain which watches MTV and *Changing Rooms*, and which is fascinated by Ricky and Bianca's ups and downs, the Britain which turns to the sports pages before the political news, where more people go on holiday to Florida than Butlins, the Britain in other words that has always been Britain too — urban, ambitious, sporty, fashion-conscious, multiethnic, brassy, self-confident and international".

He raised the fear that under Mr Blair people would wake up and "find themselves living in what feels to be a different country".

"People did not elect a Labour Government because they wanted to make Britain into a foreign country. But the impact of the Blair agenda will make people strangers in their own land — with an alien voting system and Parliament and an overmighty state."

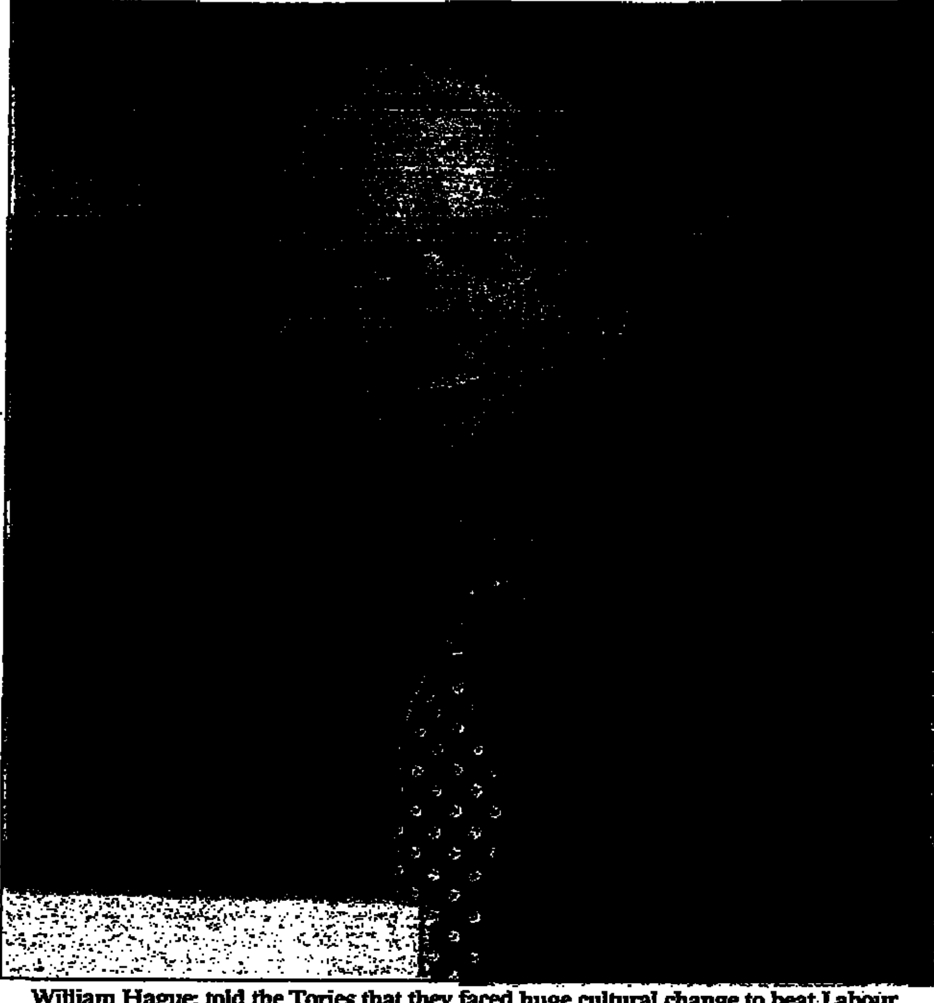
The Tories are preparing a preliminary new policy programme, *Agenda for Britain*, for later this year. Mr Hague made plain that it would cover areas such as the constitution, including proposals to reduce the powers of Scottish MPs at Westminster after devolution; Europe, where it would come out against any further transfers of power and sovereignty from Britain to outdated European institutions; and a fundamental review of the welfare state favouring families and reducing dependency on it. There would also be new policies on education to give choice to schools and parents and "get central government off the back of teachers", on health where the aim would would be to get more doctors and nurses into a modern health service, and the next stage of the "enterprise revolution" in which the Tories would again try to free business from over-regulation from Europe and the state.

Attacking Mr Blair's plans, Mr Hague said British identity could not be treated like "some passing fad that can be repackaged, rebranded or simply consigned to the dustbin. It is my profoundest belief that if the Conservative Party is not in touch with the identity and values of the British people then it cannot be authentically Conservative. The British people came to think that the Conservatives had lost touch with them. They felt that in important areas of our national life we had become detached from the British Way."

He asserted that Labour was reversing the Tory enterprise revolution and heralding the return of the big state as an enemy of Britain's enterprise spirit.

Leading article, page 19

SIMON WALKER



William Hague: told the Tories that they faced huge cultural change to beat Labour

...but begs the big questions

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The leader of the Conservative Party is better at describing what he dislikes than what he wants. His lecture had enough erudition to intrigue the punditocracy and enough soundbites to satisfy the headline writers. But his case was, in the end, unsatisfactorily elusive.

William Hague mounted a powerful case against Blairism. But his alternative of the British Way begged the main questions about the future direction of Britain — its relations with Europe, the balance of the constitution and the size and structure of the public sector. He sought to be trendy rather than traditional. There was none of the wistful nostalgia in which John Major occasionally indulged.

Mr Hague was speaking for Tories born in the 1960s, rather than the 1930s of many party members. He is right that, if the Tories "are to be champions of the British Way", they would have to win battles that would present "as big a challenge as anything we faced in the 1970s". But Margaret Thatcher's personality gave the Tories a more distinct identity then.

Mr Hague started with the enduring values that bind Britain together, rejecting the arguments of historians such as Linda Colley that Britain was brought together in the 18th century by particular circumstances and pressures that may now be ending. However, several times when Mr Hague talked about Britain, he seemed to be meaning England, despite his special political and marital understanding of Wales.

The constitution is at the heart of the Hague thesis. He portrayed Tony Blair as "holding a dagger at the heart of *what it is to be British*". Such fanciful and alarmist rhetoric aside, the real question is the inevitability of the process of change.

Mr Hague is right that "it is not inevitable because devolution is a reality, Scottish independence will follow", even though many of his colleagues think separation is bound to happen. But he has said nothing about how to satisfy Scottish aspirations within the Union.

Mr Hague raised the spectre of English nationalism as "a sinister and uncontrollable force", the threat that is more feared than seen. The Tories are right that the Government has so far ignored the *English* dimension. But their own answers have been incoherent and confused. The Tories have apparently been more clear-cut on Europe by opposing entry into a single currency. But their statement about keeping in Europe, but not being run by Europe, means little in practice. Saying we should be "distinct from the Continent and say no to further transfers of power and sovereignty to outdated European institutions" dodges the central question. The rest of Europe does not regard them as outdated.

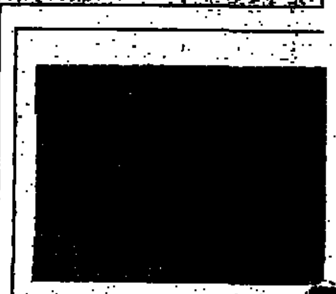
So would Mr Hague be willing to see Britain as an increasingly remote planet in the European solar system? Would we, in practice, have to renegotiate our membership?

Conservative spokesmen such as David Willetts and Ann Widdecombe have begun to hint at how they would change the schools and the NHS, but they need to be bolder. We still do not have much idea of what Hague's Britain would be like.

BRASS NECK LANDS HAGUE IN MUCK

THE appeal to "brassy" northern roots landed William Hague him in a certain amount of muck (Helen Rumbelow writes). In exhorting Britain to be more modern, the Tory leader from Rotherham used "brassy" in a context that died out in the last century. Linguistic experts said that he may have risked today's meaning of "impudently confident" to appeal to his much-favoured "Rotherham man". David Crystal, author of the *Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language*, said that until a century ago brassy could be complimentary.

But since then the meaning of "brass as opposed to golden", debased, pretentious" has dominated. The Rotherham tourist board was unimpressed. "Not many around here like him, and the people who went to school with him said he was an idiot," said a spokeswoman. "What on earth does he mean, saying we have to be more brassy when there are people struggling on the dole up here?" Anna Chester, a college lecturer, said that a brassy Britain would give foreigners the wrong impression. "Brassy in the sense of [illegible] yourself up means that Britain would be all gloss and image." Simon Armitage, the Yorkshire poet, said: "When I think of brassy, I think of a middle-aged woman with fake tan and a British Homes Store hat."



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So which three films are simply the best?

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

LORD ATTENBOROUGH is asking everyone in Britain to pick their three favourite films. He named his own yesterday — Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*, Elia Kazan's *On The Waterfront* and Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* — as he launched Millennium Movies, "the biggest poll" of its kind.

To encourage people to answer the question "Which films touched you most?" there are 25,000 prizes on offer, including a family holiday to Hollywood and five Sony widescreen televisions.

"I am asking peoplesto really think about films, to think about what they mean to them on a personal level and why," he said. "I also hope the public will become aware of other great movies they may not have seen or possibly even heard of, which will be endorsed by the poll."

Lord Attenborough, 75, whose Oscar-winning films as actor, director and producer — among them *The Great Escape, Oh What A Lovely War!* and *Gandhi* — are likely to be on many a cinemagoer's list, said that the poll would enhance "the magic of movies".

"This is a tremendous idea, since we are celebrating 100 years of cinema, to celebrate it at the time of the millennium," he said. "We want to poll the whole of the UK. We want votes from the people who really matter and who keep movies alive - the audience."



Attenborough: "Which made you laugh, cry or scream?"

There were 150 million admissions to British cinemas last year, said Lord Attenborough, an increase of more than 75 per cent in the past decade. The United Kingdom spent the third highest total on cinema tickets after the United States and Japan.

He suggested that when members of the public nominated films they should choose "not the critically acclaimed but their favourites", those that meant most to them in going to the cinema. "Which made you laugh or cry or even scream? If you start talking about quality, then you're in terrible trouble. It's got to be your favourite movie."

When he first saw *The Gold Rush*, at the London Pavilion in Piccadilly in the early 1930s, it was "a picture that bowled me over, the first movie I ever saw in a big major cinema". That was his first choice without doubt, he said, but he felt torn in choosing the others.

"How do you leave out Westerns like *Stagecoach*? Or musicals? It is very difficult to refine it down to three." He picked *On the Waterfront* because it was the first time he had seen Marlon Brando — "nothing to do with acting as we knew it".

The initiative is supported by Sky Premier, a channel of BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a stake. Lord Attenborough, who was created a life peer in 1993 for services to cinema, is the channel's patron.

Barry Norman, the Sky film critic, picked *The Godfather, Bringing Up Baby* and *Citizen Kane*, but said that his choices changed from day to day. Although critics nearly always topped their lists with the Orson Welles film, there was a generation of film students who had never heard of it and who "think movies started with *Star Wars*", he said.

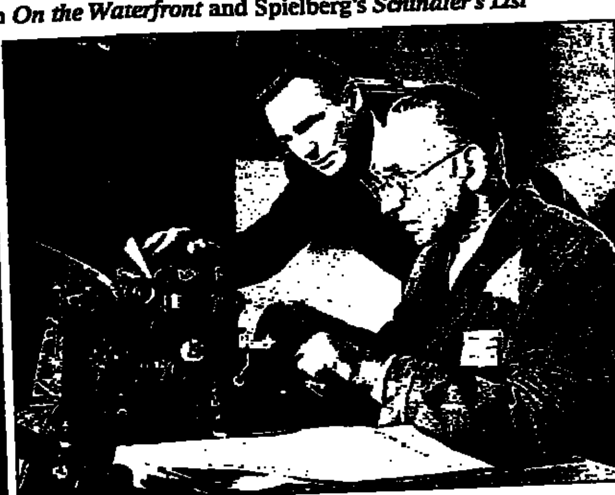
In Lord Attenborough's view, that is what the poll is about: bringing films to the attention of people who might not otherwise think of watching them.

A list of the top 100 will be drawn up and announced in July. The deadline for entries is May 31. They may be sent by post to Millennium Movies Vote, PO Box 1803, London, NW1 8NQ; by phoning 0640 678877; through Woolworth stores; or on the Internet: http://www.sky.co.uk.vote/



Director's top three: Chaplin's *Gold Rush*, Brando in *On the Waterfront* and Spielberg's *Schindler's List*





CHOSEN BY THE STARS

WOODY ALLEN: Bicycle Thieves, de Sica's 1948 neo-realist classic; La Grande Illusion, Renoir's commentary on the Great War [illegible]

PIERCE BROSNAN: Lawrence of Arabia, Lean's 1962 epic [illegible]

MICHAEL CAINE: On the Waterfront, Kazan's 1954 Method-acting tale of corruption; The Third Man, Reed's dark thriller set in postwar Vienna [illegible]

FREDERICK FORSYTH: Lawrence of Arabia; The Dam Busters, 1954; High Noon, Zinnemann's 1952 Western about a marshal who stands alone against [illegible]; Twelve Angry Men, 1957 Lumet melodrama in which Henry Fonda defends [illegible]

TERRY JONES: Fanny and Alexander, Bergman's [illegible] family in Sweden in 1900s; Steamboat Bill Jr, Keaton classic; Crimes and Misdemeanors [illegible]

JONATHAN MILLER: [illegible] dream-like scenes of [illegible] Dog, Hallström [illegible]

SPIKE MILLIGAN: [illegible] 1941 classic [illegible] em, Frog [illegible] The General [illegible]

David Logan: following Tarantino's route to stardom

Scriptwriter pens own success story

By Dalya Alberge

A VIDEO shop assistant who dreamt of working in the film industry while stocking shelves has been signed up by Hollywood as a screenwriter.

David Logan, 29, from Brighton, who began writing scripts as a teenager, is working on five scripts for the largest Hollywood studios, including Columbia Tristar and Warner Brothers.

He was earning little more than £5,000 a year before his big break but now commands six-figure fees. His story is similar to that of Quentin Tarantino, the director of *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, who also spent years working in a video shop.

His projects include one reflecting the inspiration of David Mamet and Alfred Hitchcock. *Circus* is about a conman who can manipulate anyone: "You never know what's happening until the last scene. It is the ultimate twist movie. I like twists."

The script is to be made into a $6 million film for Columbia TriStar, directed by Rob Walker and starring John Hannah and Eddie Izzard.

He has sold another movie, *Five Killers Killing*, to Sony. Then there is a rewrite of a gangster movie for Samuel L. Jackson for Alliance and an adaptation of Jay Cronley's novel, *An Honest Crook*, for Warner Brothers and Village Roadshow.

During his seven years working for the video shop, Mr Logan would use every spare hour to write and to study scripts and films. Among his customers was John Hay, who directed the comic movie *The Steal*. They used to chat about films and eventually the director agreed to read his script. "Even though it was very raw, it had something very different." They kept in touch, with Mr Hay encouraging the young film-maker.

Mr Logan's producer on *Circus*, James Gibb, said: "He's one of the hottest things in Hollywood."

Punishment gang's brutal 'life sentence'

Martin Fletcher meets a man who paid dearly for giving his friend a lift

ANDREW PEDEN has two stumps where his legs used to be. They were both amputated after he was "kneecapped" last year.

He is still racked by pain. His three young children are deeply traumatised. His friends cannot face him. His wife, Linda, has to carry him up the stairs on her back, lift him onto the toilet or into the bath, and endure his agony each night as he relives the attack in his fitful sleep.

When she goes out she sees the men who committed this evil walking about the streets. "It's wrecked our family," she said. "It's just a living nightmare."

Mr Peden is one of 256 victims of paramilitary beatings or shootings in Northern Ireland over the past 13 months. Andrew Hunter, the Conservative MP for Basingstoke, has said that today in the House of Commons he will perhaps name some of the men responsible.

The aim is to draw attention to these blatant breaches of the Good Friday accord by loyalist and republican paramilitaries whose political representatives sit with impunity in the Province's new Assembly. Yesterday, Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC chief constable, urged MPs not to identify those allegedly involved in paramilitary attacks as it could prejudice future criminal proceedings.

Andrew Mackay, the shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said: "These cases prove to me that some of those who signed the accord have not renounced violence. We believe the Government is not acknowledging the hugely serious situation on many estates where paramilitaries are effectively ruling by terror. This is in violation of the accord. Providing the paramilitaries don't do bombing 'spectaculars' we can say the ceasefires are holding and all is well in the world. It's outrageous."

> 'He cries out every night for help. If he gets an hour's sleep that's it — it's wrecked our family'

Mr Peden agreed, saying: "They have to keep the Progressive Unionist Party and Sinn Fein in the talks to make them work." Mrs Peden said: "They should take someone like Andrew in to tell his story."

Mr Peden's "crime" was to give a friend who was a member of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association a lift home from a pub one night last May. After he left, the UDA man ordered the beating of an Ulster Volunteer Force member who was having an affair with his wife. Mr Peden says he had nothing to do with the beating, or with the UDA, but the UVF had seen the UDA man in his car.

The next morning he was to take his family to a caravan on the coast for the weekend. Instead, four men bundled him into a car near his home on the Glencairn estate in Belfast. They took him to a nearby flat, blindfolded him, then beatand tortured him for ten hours and told him to write a last letter to his children.

By 10pm Mr Peden was barely conscious, but he remembers them dragging him onto some open land and telling him to lie down. They then shot him in both legs with a shotgun and left without calling an ambulance. "They meant me to die," he said.

Mrs Peden heard the blasts, but did not make the connection. She received two mysterious telephone calls, and it was past midnight before the police arrived to tell her the news. At the hospital the doctors told her that her husband had little chance of living. The blood poured out as fast as they pumped it into him, and he twice suffered heart failures on the operating table.

They managed to stabilise his condition enough to be able to amputate his left leg one week later. A few weeks later they had to amputate his mangled right leg, and again he nearly died from loss of blood. He was in hospital for seven months and still returns daily. He sees a psychiatrist and psychologists four times a week and a nurse comes daily to change his dressings because his left stump remains "like raw steak".


Andrew Peden with his 12-year-old son, Drew. Mr Peden's legs were amputated after he was beaten and shot

Mr Peden, who is 35 and worked in an electrical wholesalers, used to take his children out camping, fishing or playing football. Now he sits propped up on the sofa or moves round the house "on my bum" while he awaits artificial limbs.

His 15-year-old son, Gary, will not talk about the attack and can hardly look at his father. Drew, 12, is consumed by anger and receiving psychiatric help. "He says 'Mummy, a dog wouldn't do that to another dog'." Shaunie, aged five, still believes that her father fell down the stairs and "wishes Santa had left Daddy another pair of legs for Christmas".

The Pedens have received no compensation and have applied for a new house away from Belfast. Mrs Peden has given up her job to nurse her husband round the clock. "I don't know what it's like having a night's sleep," she said. "He cries out every night for help. He relives it every night. If he gets an hour's sleep that's it. It's wrecked our family."

She knows the men who attacked her husband, and sees them when she shops. "When they see me they drop their heads or go to the other side of the streets," she said. "They are ashamed. They are just evil men. I just hope God repays them."

Mr Peden's body has been broken, but not his will. "I have to come to terms with it. What's keeping me going is Linda and the kids. My goal is to walk down that path with my child. I know I will do it."

Winter blues brighten up

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF could soon be at hand for sufferers of Seasonal Affective Disorder, the winter condition that induces lethargy, listlessness and depression.

Scientists believe that bright electric lights are the best treatment for the condition, which the Ancient Greeks described.

Chris Thompson, the head of the Mental Health Group at the South Hampshire Hospital, said there was a simple chemical explanation. The pineal gland, in the brain, secretes the hormone melatonin during the hours of darkness. Melatonin, in excess, has a depressing effect on some people.

Although no more than one person in 20 suffers from Sad symptoms, nine out of ten find that they have minor changes in energy, appetite or weight during the winter months.

Professor Thompson said that trials had shown that Sad responds to treatment with bright artificial light. This tricked the pineal gland into thinking there was enough daylight around to stop producing melatonin and no excess built up.

Normal lighting is too dim to make much impact, but new "bright lights" with an output similar to summer daylight can satisfy the pineal gland in an hour or so. However, the lights are not cheap: Philips has just marketed its Original Bright Light for £199. Turn it down and you can use it as an ordinary table light.

For best results the light has to be used early in the day: either at the breakfast table or on the office desk.

New Lad comes up smelling of roses

Mark Henderson reports on how men are being transformed by a cosmetic encounter

BRITISH men have learnt to love the bathroom and are reaching for the moisturiser as never before, the latest comprehensive survey of consumer trends has found. Despite his scruffy, smelly image, it is the lager-swilling, *loaded*-reading "New Lad" who is largely responsible for the trend.

The annual *British Lifestyles* report, published today by the market researcher Mintel, confirms that expensive cosmetics and fragrances are no longer a luxury for women alone and identifies older teenagers and twenty-somethings as those most likely to "take an interest in their appearance, grooming and health". Sales of male moisturisers and exfoliants, aftershave and shaving products have doubled since 1988 and were last year worth a record £800 million.

The number of male grooming products has mushroomed as cosmetics firms exploit a lucrative new market with advertising campaigns led by glamorous footballers such as David Beckham and Jamie Redknapp.

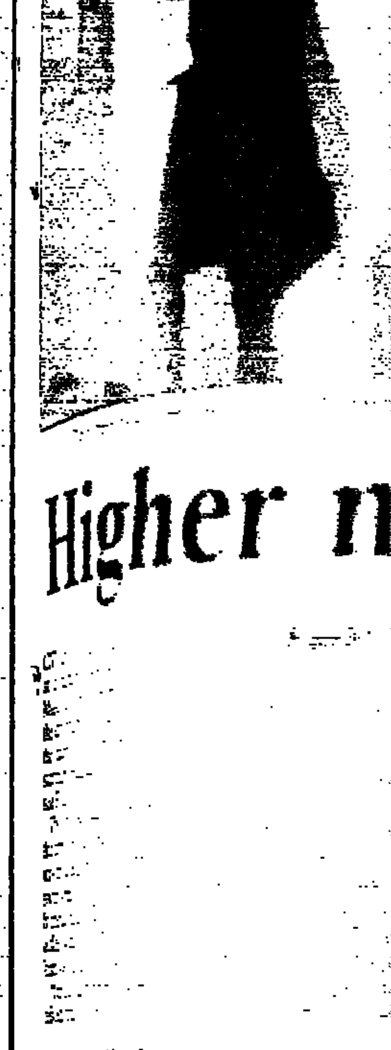
Paul Rickard, Mintel's head of research, said: "There has clearly been an easing of the reluctance factor which most men have traditionally felt." Mintel predicts that the market will continue to grow, as older men who are still reluctant to use toiletries are replaced by those who are younger and less inhibited.

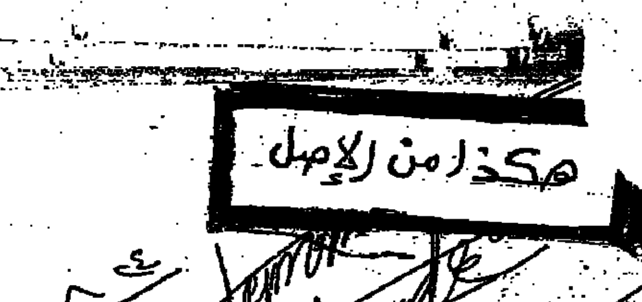
Boots said that sales had risen by 10 per cent in the past year, and that men were now likely to buy skincare products and upmarket scents as well as the shaving creams and shower gels that have long been part of the market.

The report also offers further evidence of the power of the "Delia effect" on eating habits. It says that, despite hugely increased sales of ready-made food such as pizza, more people are taking the trouble to cook a traditional, meat-and-two-veg evening meal.

There are signs, too, of "dumbing down" of Britain's leisure time. While the numbers choosing to visit historic buildings or museums fell by up to 7 per cent and trips to the theatre fell by 21 per cent between 1993 and 1998, there was a boom in the cinema and in the fitness industry.

☐ Consumers' confidence in the economy is fading for the first time in three years, the Mintel report says. There are signs that saving is replacing spending on luxuries such as holidays and cars, and faith in the housing market is starting to slide, though it is still better than in 1996. Concern is marked among would-be first-time buyers.





هكذا من الاصل









The spring look from M&S: from left, cotton-stretch polo neck and trousers with raincoat; wool-stripe jacket and trousers; gypsy top and drawstring trousers; and cotton top with short-sleeve shirt

Double Dutch show in the dark

FROM LISA ARMSTRONG, FASHION EDITOR, IN PARIS

IN A scene could have been straight out of *Prêt-à-Porter*, Robert Altman's celluloid satire, the young Dutch fashion duo Viktor and Rolf presented their couture collection in the dark.

It might seem perverse to show clothes, which live or die by their hand-worked details, by ultraviolet spotlight. The ruse highlighted the white clothes beautifully (and the lint on the audience's attire) but left the black entirely obscured.

Viktor and Rolf, who came to the catwalks via art school, are self-styled conceptual couturiers. Their last collection, featuring huge neck pillows that made the models look like Quasimodo on a bad-posture day, was entitled Atomic Chic.

Concepts are best confined to art galleries and philosophy degrees. However "The Concept", such as it was (and I think it all boiled down to black and white), paled into insignificance when the models began coming out again, but this time with the lights on. Out they all trotted, the Tuxedo, the Dodgy Priest, the Holly Hunter character from *The Piano* and, inevitably, given the ultraviolet, the Skeleton.

Cruel to mock, as Viktor and Rolf can cut an interesting suit, and beneath the concepts there is talent.



One of Viktor and Rolf's creations shown in Paris

Higher marks for some extra sparks

Susie Steiner sees M&S begin its fightback with designs for a brighter spring

CITY analysts were among guests at a fashion show yesterday as Marks & Spencer sought to reverse the downturn in its fortunes with the launch of its new spring and summer collection. The range is titled Fresh Start.

The low-key showing took place at the firm's central London headquarters in a brightly-lit, boutique-style room where clothes hung from lonely metal rails while the bar served coffee with not a little portion of humble pie for past mistakes.

"I think our core customer has perceived that we have let her down," said Martin Kemp, who took up his role as commercial executive of knitwear and sportswear this week, having been moved from his previous position as head of lingerie — Marks & Spencer's most successful department, which secures 40 per cent of Britain's underwear market.

"I hope what we have done, after much internal reflection, is learnt a lot of lessons and applied them to this spring range," he added. "We are setting out to sell more goods this spring than last year." Customers may have complained of poor service, badly displayed merchandise, overpricing and a drop in the product quality on which the firm built its name, but Mr Kemp's own view is that the firm's autumn collection failed on colour, with too much grey and black. Its aim this summer is to redress the imbalance.

Yesterday the rails burst with flashes of fuschia and turquoise in large patterns on retro-style floaty dresses. The look seemed more Margot in *The Good Life* than Twiggy in *Vogue*, but the question of serving different generations simultaneously is another problem that Mr Kemp aims to tackle.

After two years of rapid growth, resulting in 290 M&S stores nationwide, Marks & Spencer has suffered a pummelling over the past six months. The troubled high street chain suffered critically poor trading over the Christmas period and issued its first profits warning last week. The firm's shares fell to a six-year low as analysts cut their profit forecasts by as much as £200 million.

Marks & Spencer remains dogged by an awkward straddling of the generations, with its middle-aged customers complaining of too much pandering to teenage fashion while the young still steer clear of its mumsy image. Attempts at military combat trousers and utility sportswear have floundered in a confusion of age and cut which attempts to please all and ends up pleasing nobody.

Mr Kemp said: "We didn't get rid of products for 40 to 50-year-olds, but the problem was they couldn't find them properly because we put the fashion-based, up-to-the-minute products at the front."

Spring and summer will see the Marks & Spencer success stories return — the reliable staples such as T-shirts, pyjamas and underwear in bright whites and pretty blues, which it does so well.

French salute a four-legged hero

Ben Macintyre tells how the Nazis executed an army horse that dealt one of their soldiers a mortal blow

A HORSE that was executed by a Nazi firing squad in 1940 after it kicked a German soldier to death has won belated recognition as an equine hero of the Resistance.

The exploits of Iris XVI, a swift and ill-tempered mount that had belonged to General Philippe Leclerc, the liberator of Paris in 1944, are celebrated in the latest issue of *Le Casoar*, journal of the Saint-Cyr military academy, France's equivalent of Sandhurst.

In the years before the war, Iris XVI (a gelding, despite the name) was widely considered the most unruly horse in the army, as well as one of the ugliest, with "a long back, a shambling gait and straggling tail".

"He looked more like a working horse than a cavalry mount," one Saint-Cyrien said. Despite the animal's appearance and temperament, the chestnut was the favoured mount of Philippe de Hautcloque, a Saint-Cyr instructor who later would use the pseudonym Leclerc to prevent reprisals against his family when he joined General de Gaulle in London to rally the Free French.

Iris XVI gained a reputation as a winner among the military horse-racing fraternity, repeatedly beating more favoured and elegant horses on the track, but it remained remarkably untamed and in 1936 threw the future General Leclerc, breaking his leg in two places and leaving him with a permanent limp.

In 1939, when other horses were mobilised for war, Iris XVI was left behind because it was "considered too precious, or too dangerous". Armand de Vasselot de Régné, a contemporary of General Leclerc at Saint-Cyr, writes.

On June 14, 1940, the Saint-Cyr stables were occupied by a German cavalry unit of the invading Nazi army, whose commander summoned one of the stablehands. "Monsieur, you have in your stables an excellent horse named Iris XVI. This horse beat my horse in a race at the hippodrome. I want to see this horse. Go and fetch it," the German commander ordered.

The stablehand is said to have replied, whether out of fear or calculation: "I know which his box is, why not give me one of your soldiers and he can take him out?"

The luckless German soldier was handed a bridle and shown to Iris XVI's stable, but, as M de Régné records, "when he opened the door, Iris XVI let loose a massive kick and killed him stone dead".

The enraged German officer ordered a swift reprisal. "Put this horse up against a wall. Bring me 12 men. This horse will be shot," he said.



The future General Leclerc riding Iris XVI while still a Saint-Cyr instructor before the war and, right, in Paris after the liberation in 1944

Iris XVI was shot minutes later. The horse has no recorded grave, leaving open the unpleasant possibility that the champion racer and *résistant* may have been eaten.

General Leclerc, leaning on the walking stick that was Iris XVI's legacy to him, entered Paris in triumph alongside de Gaulle four years after the execution of his favourite horse.

The indomitable animal was also remembered fondly by other graduates of Saint-Cyr, including one Captain de La Horie, a renowned horseman and officer in the Second Armoured Division. De la Horie was killed during the attack on Strasbourg in November 1944. The vehicle in which he died had, painted across the top of its windscreen, the name of another hero who died for France: Iris XVI.

□ **Bangkok:** France has bestowed the Légion d'honneur, its most prestigious decoration, on a 99-year-old Thai veteran of the First World War, the French Embassy here said yesterday.

Gérard Coste, the French Ambassador to Thailand, pinned the medal on the chest of Yod Sangrungruang in Phitsanulok, 208 miles north of Bangkok on Monday, the embassy said.

The veteran is the sole surviving member of the 1,284 Thai soldiers who served in the European theatre as part of the Royal Thai Expeditionary Force. He worked as an aircraft mechanic with the French armed forces.

To commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the end of the war, France has been conferring the Légion d'honneur on all surviving Allied veterans as a way of honouring those who fought on its soil to defeat the German Army.

After the war, Yod returned to Thailand, where in due course he became a village headman. *(AP)*

Chubais libel claim rejected

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

ONE of the chief architects of Russia's much-criticised privatisation programme, Anatoli Chubais, who is a member of the right-wing coalition set to oppose the Communists and extreme nationalists in the coming elections, has lost his libel case against Sergei Dariyenko, a newsreader and political interviewer.

In his weekly review of the news, Mr Dariyenko teased Mr Chubais about the $90,000 (£55,000) advance he had received from a friend and supposed co-author of a planned book on privatisation. He had television audiences in stitches with his jibes against the unpopular Chubais, who is widely held to be partly responsible for the unpleasant shock of market reform.

Mr Chubais sued for libel, demanding 5 million roubles from ORT, the television company, and 500,000 roubles from Mr Dariyenko. The regional court found in favour of Mr Dariyenko last October. Mr Chubais appealed to the Moscow City Court, which on Monday upheld the original decision.

Stasi file handover sparks mole-hunt

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE most comprehensive mole-hunt in the recent history of the German spy service is to begin thanks to an exchange of intelligence between the Central Intelligence Agency and the German authorities.

True, the moles may now be a bit long in the tooth — some of the newly available data relates to Cold War agents from the 1970s — but for the first time spycatchers will be able to lay bare how deeply the East German Stasi penetrated the defences of the West.

Next month Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser, will hand over to a German emissary a suitcase containing the microfilmed archives of the foreign espionage department (HVA) of the Stasi. The CIA bought the archive in 1989 in an operation codenamed Rosewood soon after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

The files contain the real names of all the sources and officers who reported to Markus Wolf, the East German spymaster. The Germans have been pressing the Americans for the information ever since. Only recently did the German spy service (BND) receive a copy of the names of the 1,900 East German agents operating in West Germany. But there is much more to come.

The CIA relented only when two former East German computer technicians cracked the code of four magnetic tapes containing reports from all East German spies abroad between 1969 and 1987. The reports were held by the Gauck Agency, which is in charge of secret police archives.

Now a trade has been arranged, there should be some clarity about the killing last year of the commander of the Swiss Guard — there was speculation that it was linked to East German infiltration at the Vatican. Persistent rumours about Stasi contacts with the Labour Party in the early 1980s and Social Democratic parties throughout Europe will be tested also.

Not a good time, in short, for agents enjoying their retirement on the golf course.

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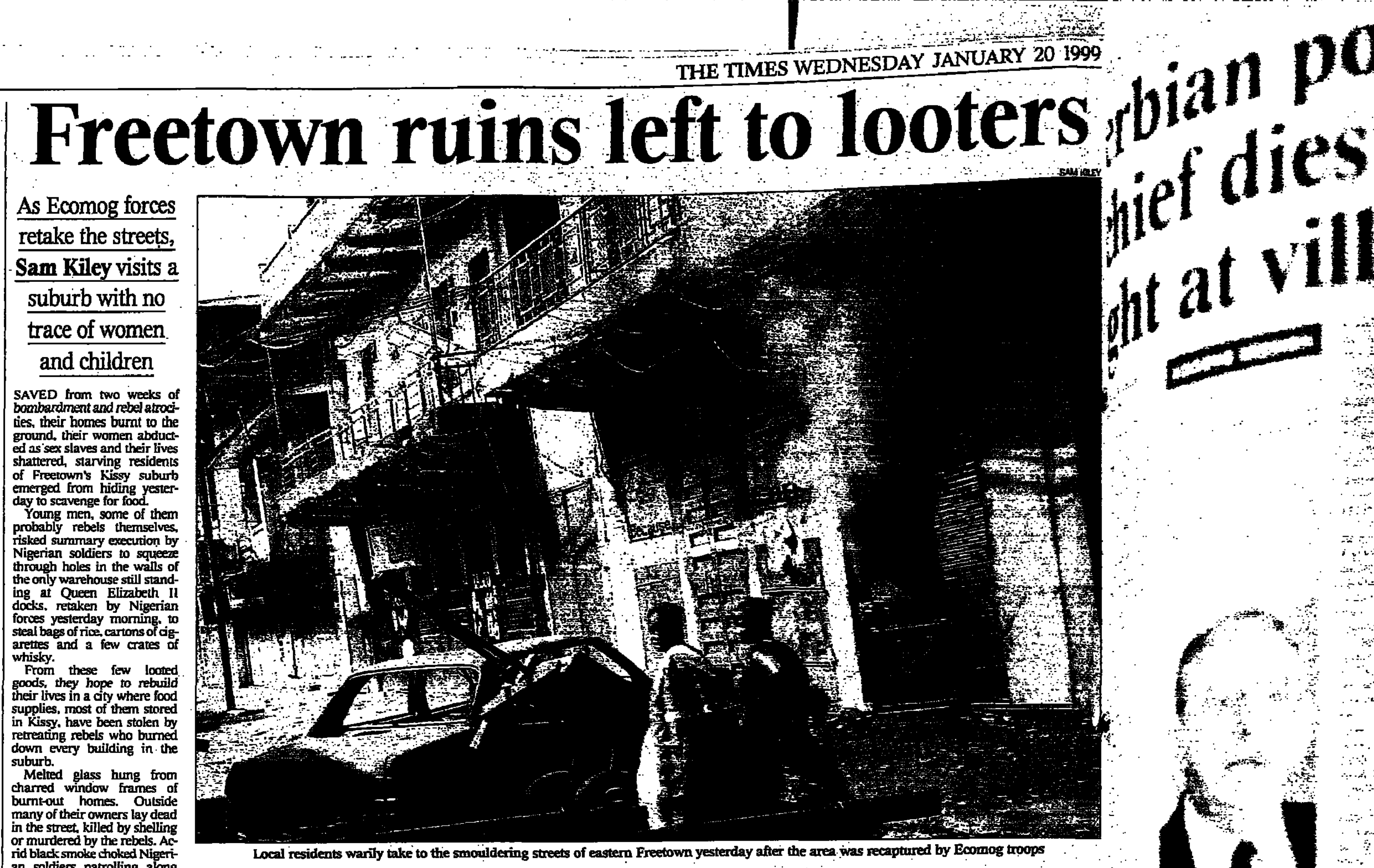
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LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Freetown ruins left to looters

As Ecomog forces retake the streets, Sam Kiley visits a suburb with no trace of women and children



SAM KILEY

Local residents warily take to the smouldering streets of eastern Freetown yesterday after the area was recaptured by Ecomog troops

SAVED from two weeks of *bombardment and rebel atrocities*, their homes burnt to the ground, their women abducted as sex slaves and their lives shattered, starving residents of Freetown's Kissy suburb emerged from hiding yesterday to scavenge for food.

Young men, some of them probably rebels themselves, risked summary execution by Nigerian soldiers to squeeze through holes in the walls of the only warehouse still standing at Queen Elizabeth II docks, retaken by Nigerian forces yesterday morning, to steal bags of rice, cartons of cigarettes and a few crates of whisky.

From these few looted goods, *they hope to rebuild* their lives in a city where food supplies, most of them stored in Kissy, have been stolen by retreating rebels who burned down every building in the suburb.

Melted glass hung from charred window frames of burnt-out homes. Outside many of their owners lay dead in the street, killed by shelling or murdered by the rebels. Acrid black smoke choked Nigerian soldiers patrolling along Blackwall Street as they ducked behind buildings to avoid sniper fire from the surrounding hills.

Some of the survivors from the fighting in the east of Free*town and elsewhere are being* sheltered in the city's stadium. But the 35,000 near-starving survivors cannot account for the whereabouts of the thousands who have disappeared.

The bodies of some, and dead rebels from the fighting, floated near the dockside. Vultures revealed the presence of others torched along with their homes. But in the frightening silence of Kissy, broken only by the rattle of sporadic rifle fire, most people seemed to have simply vanished.

Small groups of young men stood on street corners and raised their hands to wave at passing Nigerian soldiers. But after thousands of rebels infiltrated the city posing as civilians two weeks ago, and then used local residents as human shields to overrun Nigerian defences, every man in Freetown, and most women, are considered suspect by the Ecomog soldiers.

"Look at him, look at him waving. Where are all the *women? These are all rebels*, all thieves and bandits," muttered an Ecomog soldier as he levelled his weapon at a group of teenagers loitering near burning buildings and a pile of rotting corpses.

A Lebanese businessman told of how he had been beaten and his 22-year-old daughter, a well known local beauty, had been abducted.

Since Foday Sankoh formed his Revolutionary United Front in 1991, his men and their allies have abducted hundreds of young women to use as sex slaves. Those who have managed to escape, all of them HIV positive, have given descriptions of depraved assault.

The extent of these atrocities, and a widespread contempt for the disloyalty of most Sierra Leonean soldiers, has prompted battle weary Nigerians to take the law into their own hands.

"We let these people wander around the town, we fight for their country, and then they will turn around and stab us in the back. When we catch one we go fire him [we shoot him]," said a young Nigerian soldier. As he spoke four captured rebels were driven past in a blue pick-up truck. Soon after, out of sight, another soldier fired several short bursts from his automatic weapon. The young Nigerian smiled and shrugged.

> 'In the frightening silence most people seemed to have vanished'

Yesterday Major-General Abu Ahmadu, the *Ecomog* Task Force Commander, said that local staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross had been caught monitoring Nigerian radio traffic and sending it to the rebels.

"We have arrested six of them but they are continuing to use the ICRC net to spy on us. There are others we are looking for and that is why we have taken away all aid agency radios," he said. Last week the ICRC was expelled from Freetown by Sierra Leone's Government in spite of protests from Geneva.

Having taken the military initiative away from the rebels, who came within a whisker of taking over the city at the beginning of the year, General Ahmadu said that he hoped to "trap them and smash them". But he renewed a Nigerian appeal for help from the West, in particular for helicopter support.

"Until now, we have been living on pledges. Some of them have been redeemed by the British Government who sent us vehicles. We have appealed to the whole international community to help us out. We have to put an end to these rebels," he said.

Britain yesterday announced that further £1 million would be provided for humanitarian aid and to bolster the Ecomog forces in Sierra Leone.

Announcing this in the Commons, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that the money would be immediately available to alleviate suffering in the country.

The sum is being shared equally by the Foreign Office, the Department for Interna*tional Development* and the Ministry of Defence, which will defray some of the costs of *HMS Norfolk*, the frigate currently offering medical and logistical help off the Sierra Leone coast.

Britain has already given £3 million in direct and multilateral military aid to Ecomog and has spent a further £30 million in emergency humanitarian and reconstruction assistance.

☐ **Mercenaries held:** Despite the unilateral ceasefire, fighting continued in the west of Freetown where two Italian mercenaries, a man and a woman, were taken prisoner, according to a French pilot working under contract to Ecomog.

Ecomog forces carried out air operations until nightfall against rebel positions in the hills south of Aberdeen, west of Freetown where the tourist hotels are situated.

The French pilot, Jean-Jacques Fuentes, said the two *Italian* mercenaries fighting for the rebels had been caught "red-handed as they torched houses and fired guns". *(AFP)*

Zimbabwe police grant lawyers access to editor

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

LAWYERS and members of the family of Mark Chavunduka, editor of *The Standard*, were allowed to see him yesterday for the first time since he was detained by Zimbabwe military police eight days ago over a report in his newspaper of an attempted coup to overthrow President Mugabe.

"He looks okay," said Clive Wilson, proprietor of *The Standard*, who was also allowed to see Mr Chavunduka briefly at Harare central police station. Military authorities handed him over to civilian police on Monday night.

Mr Chavunduka, 34, and Ray Choto, a reporter who presented himself to police yesterday after a week in hiding, are to be charged with "causing alarm and despondency", under legislation introduced in 1960 by the Rhodesian authorities to proscribe black nationalists who were campaigning against white rule.

The police had asked Mr Choto to come in for questioning, indicating that he and Mr Chavunduka were to be charged. The editor was detained after *The Standard* published a report on January 10 that 23 soldiers, including seven officers, had been arrested for an alleged coup attempt in December.

"We hope he and Ray will both be charged tomorrow and released pending trial," Mr Wilson said last night.

Mr Chavunduka's lawyers and family were allowed access to him shortly after the Zimbabwe High Court issued a third order on Moven Mahachi, the Defence Minister, to bring the editor to court today and to explain his continued detention. Court officials had failed to serve two of the orders on the minister in person after his officials and family said he was away.

Mr Chavunduka's detention has been condemned by unions, churches, academics and by local and international human rights groups who say it violates press freedom and the rule of law.

Serbian police chief dies in fight at village

FROM TOM WALKER IN RACAK

KOSOVO MISSION

ABOVE the Orthodox Church on the Kastanje hill overlooking Stimlje and Racak, monitors were staging their usual vigil through binoculars, documenting minute by minute the village's fate in the mist below.

After a particularly heavy bout of gunfire, a convoy of 20 police vehicles descended from the hill opposite. Shortly afterwards a helicopter went in to remove the police casualties. Later, a release from the Pristina media centre said that a police deputy chief, Miro Mekic, had been killed and two of his colleagues seriously wounded as they "guarded the investigation authorities".

The regional prosecuting magistrate, Danica Marinkovic, was said to have again entered the village, although she refused to talk to journalists afterwards. Late on Monday she was reported to have had the back windows of her Lada Niva shot out by a Kosovo Liberation Army sniper as the police removed the Albanian bodies from Racak mosque.

In Pristina itself, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe maintained a discreet silence over the future of the Kosovo mission, should its ambassador, William Walker, be forced to leave. Serb sources confirmed that one irony of Mr Walker's possible expulsion would be its harm to Ms Marinkovic's income: she and her husband own the apartment block where Mr Walker — now dubbed the "ambassador of lies" by the Serb press — rents a flat at considerable cost.

The media centre said it was on the point of organising a police press conference to give the official Serb version of events at Racak.

The local authorities and Belgrade have been given heart by reports of what French newspapers are said to be planning to publish today. These reports would throw considerable doubt on the Albanian accounts of what happened at Racak.

Several French journalists have studied video footage of the police attack on the village on Friday, and they have concluded that women and children were not separated from their menfolk, as has been widely reported.

The video footage also shows the police to have been without the masks reported by the Albanians, and the French journalists also postulate that the Albanians both shifted many of the bodies of the massacre victims and mutilated them. "The best proof will come from the autopsies," said a Serb official in Pristina.

"Unfortunately, the Finnish pathologists cannot join us until Thursday," the official added. "But thankfully we have experts from Belarus observing the investigations. I hope the truth will come out before the Nato bombing starts."



Walker: may be forced to leave by Serbs

Belgrade warned of raids 'in days'

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND MICHAEL BINYON

TWO Nato generals gave President Milosevic a warning yesterday to pull back his troops from Kosovo, as the US Ambassador to the alliance predicted that airstrikes could be launched within days if the Yugoslav leader remained defiant.

At a lunchtime meeting with Mr Milosevic in Belgrade, General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme allied commander Europe, and General Klaus Naumann, chairman of the military committee at alliance headquarters, spelled out the consequences if Serb forces continued to mount attacks in Kosovo.

Alexander "Sandy" Vershbow, the US Ambassador to Nato, made it clear in public

MILITARY OPTIONS

that this could mean imminent airstrikes.

Speaking on the BBC's *Today* programme, he said that if Mr Milosevic adopted a totally defiant posture with the two generals, alliance governments would be forced to make a decision on action within a matter of days.

"The situation is very urgent," he said. "Time is running out for Milosevic. He doesn't seem to understand how serious the situation is ... I don't think our patience will extend for very long."

Sandy Berger, the US National Security Adviser, said in Washington that the threat of force was still "very much an option".

Before meeting Mr Milosevic, General Clark said that the military plans drawn up last October for extensive airstrikes were still "very much alive". He told the BBC: "Most of the forces are poised and ready should they be called on today."

Thirteen Nato countries have combat aircraft deployed in Italy for possible airstrikes and remain on a high operational status. The RAF has four Harrier GR7 ground attack aircraft at Gioia del Colle, one TriStar airborne refuelling tanker at Ancona and two Sentry early warning radar systems at Aviano.

For the planned airstrikes campaign against Yugoslavia in October — averted at the last moment — a total of 500 aircraft were assigned for the raids, including six US B52s, sent to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

At the Belgrade meeting, the two Nato generals demanded that Mr Milosevic bring to justice those responsible for the massacre of 45 Albanians in the village of Racak in Kosovo, the incident which provoked the latest confrontation.

Generals Clark and Naumann also tried to persuade Mr Milosevic to reverse his decision to expel William Walker, the American head of mission in Kosovo of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Yugoslav Government later announced that it had delayed the 48-hour expulsion order by a further 24 hours, after a special request from Knut Vollebaek, chairman of the OSCE.

The two generals will be reporting back to Nato's North Atlantic Council in Brussels later today. Also today, Britain will chair a meeting of the six-nation Contact Group in Brussels, at which political directors from Russia, America and four European Nato allies will examine the bleak options facing those attempting to promote peace negotiations in Kosovo.

Moscow remains staunchly opposed to the use of force, and is expected to take as strong a line against Nato airstrikes as it did against the British and American attacks on Baghdad. Western diplomats were encouraged by Russia's recent condemnation of violence in Kosovo, but were pessimistic that this could be translated into gaining greater leverage over Belgrade.

Instead, today's meeting will focus on ways of breaking the diplomatic deadlock by intensifying the pressure on Belgrade in the United Nations, raising shuttle diplomacy to a higher level and proposing a Dayton-style conference of all the parties in a third country.

Diplomats admitted yesterday that there was little incentive for either Mr Milosevic or the Kosovo Liberation Army to begin meaningful talks. They hoped that the KLA could be persuaded to join negotiations, either by squeezing its supply of weapons from Albania or by speeding up elections in Kosovo for Albanian political representatives who could claim a mandate for talks. But the KLA is likely to deal harshly with any rival Albanian factions.

The brain-storming session of the Contact Group in Brussels will be followed by the two generals' reports. The Contact Group is still searching for a way to co-ordinate the various intitiatives by Nato, political directors and the OSCE.

NATO: READY FOR ACTION

ITALY
5,500 personnel from 13 Nato countries
Aircraft: 200 provided by US, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Turkey

Ghedi, Piacenza, Villafranca, Pisa, Istrana, Vicenza, Aviano, Cervia, Trieste, Rimini, Ancona, Naples, Gioia del Colle, Split, Rome, ITALY, TYRRHENIAN SEA, ADRIATIC SEA, SLOVENIA, CROATIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, HUNGARY, MONTENEGRO, ALBANIA, Tirana, Pristina, SERBIA, Belgrade, Skopje, GREECE, Former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA, Kumanovo, ROMANIA, BULGARIA

NATO bases

MACEDONIA
NATO EXTRACTION FORCE - 2,300 personnel

KOSOVO
OSCE VERIFIERS - 750 personnel
AID AGENCIES - 400-500 personnel

Macedonia force on alert as evacuation fears grow

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN SKOPJE

NATO WATCH

THE 2,300 members of the Nato Evacuation Force in Skopje remained on full alert yesterday as the possibility grew of a direct intervention to remove international monitors from Kosovo.

Nato has considerable military resources here but, as always in the Balkans, things on the ground can look very different from the way they seem in the military planners' offices in New York or Brussels.

It is not clear what the future of the United Nations Preventative Peacekeeping Force will be if the Nato force gets involved in Kosovo. The blue-helmeted troops have been patrolling the borders of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since 1993.

The Nato operation is French-led and few of the French officers here expect direct involvement. "We are firefighters, yes, but only for a very big fire," one said. But many believe that they will be used if the Serbs take hostages from the monitoring force.

Most of the Italian soldiers billeted in the Hotel Tourist in Marshal Tito Street agree. "We would be invading Yugoslavia," one said.

Nato plans, as always, are prey to the traditional Balkan loyalties of the big powers. The French officers are strongly pro-Serb. "It is the Muslim problem. We have it in France," one Breton said.

Some feel that the Nato helicopters would be vulnerable to Serb anti-artillery fire and it would require a major assault to bring off a successful hostage rescue.

☐ Helsinki: The behaviour of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) makes it harder for the West to intervene militarily on its behalf in the Serbian province, a senior American diplomat said yesterday.

Robert Gelbard, President Clinton's special envoy to the Balkans, said that the KLA bore part of the blame for the tension in Kosovo, even though President Milosevic of Yugoslavia was the main culprit. "We do not want to be the Kosovo Liberation Army's air force," Mr Gelbard told a news conference. "They have to learn to obey the rules, too."

Mr Gelbard said that Yugoslav forces were not alone in committing violence in Kosovo and that the KLA, which is fighting for independence for the mainly ethnic Albanian province, had engaged in murder and kidnapping.

However, he described as criminal President Milosevic's refusal on Monday to allow Louise Arbour, the UN war crimes prosecutor, to enter Kosovo. "The expulsion of Louise Arbour has been yet another demonstration that Slobodan Milosevic is an international outlaw," Mr Gelbard said. He declined to comment on the likelihood of airstrikes threatened by Nato. *(Reuters)*

WORLD SUMMARY

70 miles of cones settle border row

Lagartococha, Peru: President Fujimori of Peru and President Mahuad of Ecuador unveiled a line of concrete cones demarcating a 70-mile stretch of the border between the countries in a remote rainforest region. The meeting marked the end of a dispute that has led to three wars in 100 years.

Rapist to die

Manila: A man who raped his stepdaughter, aged 11, should be put to death by lethal injection "without delay" the Supreme Court ruled, clearing the way for the first execution in 23 years.

'Witch' girl killed

Lausanne: A girl of 11 was beaten to death in front of her two sisters aged five and nine because her mother and aunt believed she was bewitched, Swiss police said. Both adults have been arrested. *(AP)*

Plea for food aid

Seoul: Famine-hit North Korea has demanded a million tonnes of US food aid in return for allowing an inspection of an underground site suspected of being for nuclear purposes. *(AFP)*

Panda attack

Beijing: A peasant in Sichuan province has been mauled by a giant panda after falling into its shed at a breeding centre. The woman was seriously injured in the attack and underwent an operation. *(AFP)*

Joy in the rain as Hussein returns home

By Christopher Walker in Amman

JORDAN gave way to euphoria yesterday as King Hussein returned home from a six-month cancer cure to resume control of the desert kingdom he has ruled for 47 years.

Up to a million Jordanians lined the streets of the rain-soaked capital to greet the man known by diplomats as PLK (Plucky Little King) as he braved wintry weather to wave from the open top of a white Mercedes.

Some Jordanians, maintaining Beduin custom, slaughtered sheep and camels in the King's honour. Others sat in tents heated by smoky wood-burners and filled with patriotic bagpipe music. Loudspeakers lined a route lit with fairy-lights and festooned with giant portraits of the 63-year-old monarch and his wife, Queen Noor. Shopkeepers offered trays of sweetmeats and cardamom-laced coffee to passers-by.

Munir Abdul Samad, 42, an English teacher, pointed to a camel squatting on the back of a white pickup truck. "We have brought the animal 150 miles to kill it here to show His Majesty how much we love him and how we have missed him like a father," he said.

The teacher, his head swathed in a red and white *kefiyeh*, added: "It is truly miraculous. For nearly a year, we had no rain. Now, within hours of the King addressing us on Saturday night, it has rained almost non-stop. It shows even the heavens are determined to welcome him."

From the atmosphere along the 15-mile route of the royal motorcade, the country might just have won the World Cup, or even a war. "I can tell you what you see is genuine, heartfelt feeling," Mr Samad said. "Without the King we were all frightened what might happen to our country."

Many were anxious to see how the King looked after six months of chemotherapy in the US for non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Doctors have announced him cured after treatment which also included a transplant of his own bone marrow and blood transfusions from close relatives.

The King — the world's longest-serving executive ruler — piloted his own jet home. Somehow he appeared to have gained strength since being helped towards the plane in London by his American-born wife only hours earlier.

In a symbolic gesture that will have appealed even to his Islamic fundamentalist enemies, the King's first act was to kneel and pray towards Mecca on a red and black mat laid out on the sodden runway. Then he met Arab notables, including the President of Yemen, the Emir of Qatar, the Crown Princes of Morocco and Bahrain, and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Throughout the day, Jordan Television relayed film of the King's reign which began when he was 17, not long after his grandfather, King Abdullah was assassinated in front of him in Jerusalem.

Banners stretched in a forest across the wide boulevards of Amman proclaimed: "You return like the soul to the body."

The excitement was reinforced by the fact that 80 per cent of Jordanians have never known another ruler and have a rapport with the King.

"The simple fact is that we love the man and we admire him," said Naim Muleek, a Jordanian Christian of Palestinian origin. "We want to show you how happy we are he is well."

The King said yesterday that there was "much to be done". He has promised to introduce a series of reforms before he returns in two months to the Mayo clinic in Minnesota for what is described as a routine check-up. The planned reforms include a rooting out of corruption.

He has also told close aides that he plans to convene a family council to deal with the future of the Hashemite dynasty. There is speculation that he wants Prince Hamzah, his 18-year-old son by Queen Noor, to succeed him, rather than his brother, Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, 51, his designated successor.

A palace official said: "His Majesty, a strong believer with a deep sense of faith in God's will, has confronted life and death during those difficult days (of his cure). It naturally rekindled a wish to seek posterity through passing the succession to one of his sons."

☐ *Tel Aviv:* Two Israeli air force F16 fighters provided an honorary escort for King Hussein as he piloted himself over Israeli air space. Israel's Defence Ministry said the planes met the King's plane 50 miles outside Israel's waters above the Mediterranean Sea. *(AP)*

Leading article, page 19



King Hussein, watched by Queen Noor, is embraced by his brother, Crown Prince Hassan, after arriving home in Amman yesterday

Travel agent denies Miss World rape

Ramleh: An Israeli travel agent has denied raping Linor Abargil, the 19-year-old Israeli model who is Miss World, saying: "I didn't do this dirty thing."

A court here yesterday ordered that Shlomo Nour, 43, be held until January 31 pending an Israeli police inquiry into the alleged rape outside Milan on October 6.

Mr Nour, who was arrested at Tel Aviv airport on his return home this month, said: "I came to Israel on my own initiative. I didn't do this dirty thing. I didn't do this disgusting thing, and I am an innocent man."

Ms Abargil, who won the Miss World crown in November, alleges that the Egyptian-born Israeli, who ran a travel agency in Milan, raped her at knife-point in his car after offering to drive her to Rome for a flight home.

Mr Nour claims that they had consensual sex in his Milan apartment. *(Reuters)*



Nour: claims Abargil consented to sex

Defence presents simple rebuttal to Senate

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE White House opened its defence of President Clinton yesterday with a deliberately low-key address that contrasted sharply with the grand language and historical allusions used by prosecutors to open the impeachment trial.

Charles Ruff, Mr Clinton's lawyer, said simply: "William Jefferson Clinton is not guilty of the charges that have been presented against him. He did not commit perjury. He did not obstruct justice. He must not be removed from office."

Mr Ruff said that his team would not be able to "match the eloquence" of the 13 prosecutors from the House of Representatives.

"But we will try to respond to the charges as directly and candidly as possible. We will provide a defence as clearly and cogently as possible. We will defend the President on the facts and the law."

He said that the facts could not possibly convict Mr Clinton of committing perjury in the account he gave of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky before the grand jury or of obstructing justice by trying to conceal the relationship. And he said that, even if the facts could prove his guilt, he did not warrant removal from office.

At the start of a three-day defence, Mr Ruff then plunged into the details of the case. He tracked Mr Clinton's troubles back to the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit and attacked the motives of her lawyers in seeking to uncover evidence of other relationships. That effort led to discovery of Monica Lewinsky and the President's illicit affair. Mr Ruff said the digging for evidence was done "clearly with only one purpose: to embarrass the President".

He also attacked the prosecution's insistence that witnesses, including Ms Lewinsky, must be called. He wondered how then they could be so certain of the strength of their case when "(Kenneth Starr) admitted he hadn't met any of the witnesses who went before his grand jury".

Clinton puts hackers on terror agenda

Congress hears the President's worries about security, writes Ian Brodie

SHRUGGING off impeachment woes, President Clinton sounded the alarm last night on threats to American security, with proposals to defend the United States from computer terrorists and to increase its help to Russia for dismantling its Cold War arsenal.

The President also used his State of the Union message to call for a new round of global trade talks to counter the protectionist forces let loose by worldwide financial turmoil.

On the domestic front, Mr Clinton suggested spending most of the federal budget surplus to rescue social security, which provides Americans with their state old-age pensions. He ignored the fact that he was addressing members of the Congress who impeached him last month and who now are trying him over the sex-and-lies scandal. His plan was to press on as if nothing were amiss.

His proposal to deflect new threats to American security was an important initiative that is likely to win Republican funding. As Mr Clinton said, it was designed to defend the US from the danger of biological and chemical weapons attacks and from threats to critical computer networks by combating terrorism and protecting the infrastructures.

The proposal includes establishing a national domestic preparedness office that will run a civil defence programme to train and equip police, fire and ambulance workers who would be first on the scene of any biological or chemical weapons attack.

Mr Clinton's plan would include studies of how to recruit technologists to safeguard government computer networks. The President said: "We will improve systems designed to monitor computer intrusions. We will develop better ways of sharing information between public and private sectors so that we help better prepare for possible cyber-attacks."

The initiatives will be aimed at thwarting hackers armed with destructive computer codes and terrorists intent on sabotaging America's electricity grid and its increasingly computer-dependent banking and financial networks.

Mr Clinton wants to expand co-operation with Russia and other former Soviet countries in disposing of their deteriorating weapons programmes by 70 per cent over five years to $4.2 billion (£2.54 billion). He described it as money well spent in a collaborative threat-reduction that would help to reduce the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

He proposed more funds to put 8,000 Russian scientists to work on civilian research and for the dismantling and storing of warheads and the disposal of 50 tons of plutonium.

The programme would help to tighten export controls, and especially to prevent Iran from obtaining technologies from Russia by underhand means, Mr Clinton said. It would also help Russia to destroy its chemical and biological weapons.



Clinton: call for a new round of trade talks

Mr Clinton acknowledged Pentagon warnings about the need to strengthen America's armed forces by proposing an additional $12 billion to reverse a ten-year trend towards lower military strength. Readiness would be enhanced, with new funds for recruitment, better training, more flying hours for disgruntled pilots and more spare parts, the President said. Republicans are expected to agree.

The President's proposal for new world trade talks is likely to be welcomed by European and Japanese officials. The talks, possibly to be called the Clinton Round, would open next December and focus on industrial tariffs, agriculture, labour rights, intellectual property and environmental protection. However, Republicans are unlikely to give Mr Clinton "fast-track" negotiating authority, which means that any deals he may make could be tinkered with by Congress.

More contentious were the President's plans for keeping social security solvent beyond 2032 when, on present showing, it will be unable to pay full benefits to all the "baby-boomers" in retirement. He suggested using 62 per cent of the long-term projected budget surplus, about $2,800 billion, to increase the social security reserves. Another $500 billion would go into new government-subsidised retirement savings accounts.

Republicans would prefer to see cuts in income tax, but must step warily to avoid upsetting voters worried about anything that would imperil their pensions.

☐ **Bush inaugurated:** Halfway across the country from Washington, George W. Bush was inaugurated for the second time as Governor of Texas. Son of the former President, he is the leading Republican presidential candidate in the polls. Mr Bush remains coy about his plans, but is expected to make a formal declaration in March.

CLAY CAMPBELL / AP



Jerry Freeman, a Californian desert adventurer, and his daughter, Holly, remove a chest from a cave in Death Valley. Mr Freeman said their find contained the relics of a doomed pioneer's expedition across the hostile wastes of the South-West nearly 150 years ago, including gold and silver coins, a hunting knife and journals (Giles Whittell writes).

Adventurer claims discovery of treasure in Death Valley cave

An archaeologist and amateur historian, Mr Freeman made headlines last year with an unauthorised hike into Nevada's top-secret military test site known as Area 51. He had hoped to locate an inscribed rock said to have been left there by the lost 49ers, a doomed wagon train of gold-seekers. The cave with the chest was several days' walk west of Area 51, he said.

Living doll drives parents mad

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

SHE whines. She gurgles. She answers back. She fills her nappy. She costs up to $80 (£50), and though she seems to promise education and fun for little girls she is driving thousands of parents mad.

America is struggling with an electronic baby boom consisting of 300,000 precocious talking dolls. They have proved so demanding that many parentshave resorted to the toy world's equivalent of euthanasia to ease the strain.

Amazing Amy, a plastic infant with a microprocessor for her heart and soul, has electronic sensors on her skin and tongue and a 10,000-strong digital phrasebook including such alarm calls as "I need medicine!" and "Whoa! My nose says it's time to change my diaper." Amy was the sixth most popular electronic toy this Christmas. She was beaten by the "bounce-around Tigger" and four versions of a talking Teletubby, but emerged ahead of several Star Wars toys.



Amazing Amy: she has been given an attitude and is fussy about food

"Our mission was to make Amy as real as can be," a spokeswoman for her manufacturer told *The Washington Post*. She was programmed to enjoy certain foods in certain circumstances, to recognise them by their shape (plastic groceries are included) and to say "yuck" when fed the wrong thing.

Amazing Amy, which some said should be renamed Annoying Amy, also has an internal clock which serves as an alarm ("It's time to get up! Wake up, mommy!") but cannot be counted on to send the doll to sleep. This happens only once she is fed, cosseted and exercised, or after her complaints have been ignored five times.

Nowadays "kids expect their toys to beep and talk back to them and have an attitude", one industry analyst said. Parents are not so sure. One complained that Amy was teaching his daughter that children can expect to run the house. Others told of exhausted ten-year-olds looking for "medicine" and "milk". Still others have returned the dolls to the shop. But there is an easier option. Amazing Amy has an on/off switch in the small of her back.

Seeking clues to natural cures

Mexico's flora could be nature's storehouse for remedies to many diseases. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

With its thick jungle and magnificent mountains, southern Mexico is one of nature's richest botanical gardens. The thousands of plants that flourish there — some grow nowhere else — have provided medicinal remedies for many centuries to the isolated Mayan people.

Now the Mayas are to let the world in on their secrets. Xenova, a British pharmaceutical company, together with scientists at the University of Georgia, are embarking on a project to document the flora in the politically troubled Mexican state of Chiapas.

Mayan doctors and healers will be interviewed to find out which plants they use to treat common ailments, such as tropical diseases.

The groundwork for the project has been laid over the past decade by a husband and wife team of anthropologists, Professor Brent Berlin and Dr Elois Ann Berlin, based at the University of Georgia. They have collected specimens of about 1,600 plants and recorded the ailments they supposedly cure. They also carried out health surveys on thousands of residents, as well as interviewing experts. The medical practices of the Mayas are so complex that the couple's findings about just one class of illness — gastrointestinal diseases — filled a 500-page book.

In 1997, realising the enormity of cataloguing other herbal remedies, Professor Berlin contacted Xenova, which is based in Slough, Berkshir. "It fitted in perfectly with what we do at Xenova Discovery," says Dr Neil Robinson, head of analytical chemistry at the research arm of the company.

"We are interested in developing drugs from natural products, especially micro-organisms in plants, and we have collected samples from all over the world. One of the most familiar drugs, aspirin, was originally derived from willow bark, so there is a long tradition of treatments coming from natural sources.

"We were particularly interested because Chiapas is a mecca of biodiversity — it has thousands of plant species that are rare and perhaps don't grow anywhere else, and harbour organisms not found anywhere else."

Last month the Xenova was awarded a grant of £300,000 a year for five years by a consortium of organisations, including the National Institutes of Health in Washington, to pursue the scheme.

The two collaborators are approaching the project from slightly different angles. Both hope that Western medicine can benefit from Mayan medical expertise honed over centuries. The Mayas have potions for such diverse conditions as diarrhoea, fractures, burns and mental disorders. One plant is even used as a means of birth control. Fungi are also popular. Pharmacological studies have shown at least some of these treatments to be effective — coyote bush leaves, undocumented in modern medical literature, work wonders for diarrhoea, while a cactus balm can soothe burns.

Xenova is hoping to uncover plants that can treat more serious illnesses, such as cancer. The company has gambled successfully before: a compound found in exotic soils, known only as XR9576, may have potential as an anti-cancer agent. For Professor Berlin, the project represents the chance to document traditions and practices that are in danger of disappearing, either because of the vanishing rainforest or because modern generations are turning to more orthodox medicine. "We want to convince the younger Mayas that it makes more sense to use the natural pharmacy in their backyard than spending good money on conventional medicine that does the same thing," Professor Berlin says.

There are estimated to be 9,000 plants of interest, each playing host to several micro-organisms. The most laborious and time-consuming aspect of the project will be the collection and identification of species; specially trained botanists from the area will aid the effort greatly.

Back in the laboratory, thousands of specimens can be scrutinised in a day. Cells are brought into contact with plant extracts to see if the concentrate has any effect. "If you get an effect, you have to find out what in the extract is causing it," Dr Robinson explains. "That means separating and purifying each compound in the extract."

The next step is to find out which bit of the cell is targeted by the compound. At this stage, chemists will create hundreds of analogues — substances with very similar molecular structures — and then test them. This helps to home in on the chunk of the molecule responsible for the effect.

Dr Robinson adds: "This tweaking might also help to produce a compound that has the same biological action but fewer side-effects, or might make the substance easier to formulate into a drug. For example, if a compound can be tweaked so it will dissolve in water, one can administer it as a tablet rather than as an injection, which is easier."

Conscious of accusations of bioprospecting — exploiting the biological treasures of another country for profit — Xenova and Professor Berlin plan to set up a trust in Chiapas, called PROMAYA, that will represent the community and receive royalties from any drugs that Xenova develops.

"The pay-off will be considerable," Professor Berlin says. "We are not screening just any old plants. We are studying ones that have been used successfully by the Mayan people for generations. Whether we find a cure for Aids or cancer is another question, but it's quite possible."



Passing on a natural asset: women in the State of Chiapas in Mexico gather to practise their traditional medicine

How the Mayas got high

The Mayas created one of the great civilisations in the unprepossessing Central American jungle. Cities such as Tikal in Guatemala and Chichén Itzá in Yucatan amazed early explorers with their massive temple-pyramids, striking stone sculptures and long inscriptions in hieroglyphics.

Deciphering the dates on these monuments showed that the Mayas reached their peak between AD200 and 900 — roughly coincident with the Roman and early Byzantine Empires — before undergoing a mysterious collapse that left most of their cities abandoned to the forest. Over the past century, hundreds of these cities have been found in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize.

Tikal is estimated to have housed 70,000 people. The urban core of more than a square mile included bread plazas linked by processional ways, and six large temples. One of these, excavated in the 1960s, covered the tomb of a powerful ruler known as Hasaw Kan K'awil, who died in AD734 after half a century fighting to preserve the independence of Tikal. Such real history is emerging rapidly from the decipherment of the hieroglyphs.

> 'Lands planted with wine trees,' said the Spanish

At the same time, investigation of Mayan culture's economic and social foundations is revealing how this tropical forest people developed and maintained a literate society for seven centuries in such an unlikely place. Pollen in swamp soils shows rainforest destruction by 2500BC and the start of cultivation.

Excavations at the oldest-known Mayan community, Cuello in northern Belize, showed that by 1200BC many of the foundations of Mayan life were already laid, including agriculture based on maize, beans and root crops such as cassava, grown throughout the Amazon basin and Mexico. Maize was domesticated from *teosinte* in the highlands of Mexico: in adapting it to the humid tropical lowlands, the Mayas showed a sophisticated understanding of the potential of plant foods. They exploited the forest fruits, including avocado and cocoa. Mayan cocoa groves were so productive that the Aztecs, who flourished half a millennium after the Maya went into decline, sent an expeditionary force to seize the orchards on the Pacific coast of Chiapas.

A popular drink was *balche*, a mead in which was steeped the bark of the *balche* tree. In one account, the jar was heated, and just before serving, a toad was dropped in. The bufotenin released by its parotid glands acted as a powerful hallucinogen.

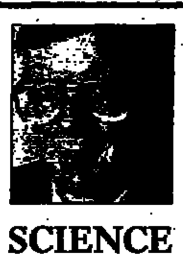
Mayan pottery vessels show that such drugs were also administered as enemas, bypassing the nausea caused by swallowing. Spanish sources after the 1542 conquest of Yucatan mention "lands planted with wine trees", as well as the drunkenness of their new subjects: the Roman Catholic Church suppressed much Mayan plant lore.

In recent years, interest has revived: not just from scholars seeking explanations for the abundant depictions of plants in ancient Mayan sculptures and murals, but from those who believe that there is modern knowledge to be gained.

While searches such as Professor Berlin's may well give the world the basis for new drugs, local efforts such as the Panti Medicine Trail or the La Milpa research station in Belize are trying to bring knowledge of plants and their uses back to visitors and the Mayas themselves.

NORMAN HAMMOND

A dousing for dowsers




SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

DOWSING lies right at the ragged edge of science, a hinterland occupied by ideas whose time may be past but which simply refuse to die. There is no plausible mechanism to explain it, but belief persists, aided occasionally by scientific experiments which seem to show that the technique really works.

Among the most painstaking of these were carried out in the 1980s by physicists in Munich, who concluded that most dowsers did no better than chance, but that a few "showed an extraordinarily high rate of success, which can scarcely, if at all, be explained as due to chance".

Nonsense, says Professor Jim Enright, of Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. He accuses Professor Betz of "wishful thinking" in his interpretation of the Munich experiments which, he says, provide no evidence that dowsing does work.

The experiments were carried out in a barn near Munich. On the ground floor was a 30m length of track, along which a wagon could be moved. Mounted on the wagon was a length of pipe with water circulating through it.

For each test the position of the wagon along the track was determined by a random number generated by a computer. On the floor above, the dowsers were asked to work out for each test where the pipe was, without, of course, being able to see it.

From 500 volunteers, 43 dowsers were selected, and they took part in 104 sets of tests, or a total of 843 tests. Most were a failure; the argument centres over whether, as the experimenters claimed, a minority of dowsers really could detect the correct position of the pipe. This claim, says Professor Enright in the current issue of *Skeptical Inquirer*, rests on the results of seven series of tests out of the 104 actually conducted. Three of these produced very good results, the other four reasonably good results.

The six dowsers involved also took part in unsuccessful tests, which seems to rule out claims that they had special gifts. And Professor Enright works out that even in their successful tests, the dowsers (with one exception) would have been more nearly right had they simply guessed that the pipe was in the middle of the track each time. "The Munich experiments constitute as decisive and complete a failure as can be imagined of dowsers to do what they claim they can," he concludes.

Professor Betz, naturally, disagrees. He has since been involved in evaluating a ten-year programme, financed by the German Government, to find water in a number of Third World countries.

Not only did dowsers find water, he asserts, but in hundreds of cases they were able to predict the depth of the water source and the yield of the well to within 10 to 20 per cent. "We carefully considered the statistics of these correlations and they far exceeded lucky guesses," he says.

So who's right? Both men claim to be evaluating the evidence scientifically and they reach entirely different conclusions.

Like the water that dowsers set out to find, this one will run and run.

Mind the gap

SEVEN years ago two US scientists said that women athletes would overtake men by the middle of the next century in every event from 200 metres to the marathon. But a new study says this won't happen.

In *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, Phillip Starling and colleagues from the Georgia Institute of Technology say that the gender difference in distance running has stopped narrowing. They used world rankings for 1980 to 1996 to extract the best and the 100th best times for the 1,500 metres and the marathon.

In the 1,500 metres, the gender difference in world best times is 11.1 per cent, in the marathon 11.2 per cent. While the 100th best time for women in the marathon improved in the early 1980s as more women took up the event, the gap with men has stopped narrowing. It is likely, say the team, that these differences will remain fairly constant.

Tune in to the humming Earth

LAST year seismologists discovered that the Earth vibrates with a steady hum, far below the level of human audibility. The finding, by several teams including one led by Dr Naoki Suda of Nagoya University of Japan, caused puzzlement and some scepticism.

Geologists have known for nearly 40 years that earthquakes can make the Earth ring like a bell, but there are too few quakes to account for background hum.

By the time of the American Geophysical Union's meeting in December, seismologists had accepted that the hum was real, but were still searching for a cause.

Dr Göram Ekström of Harvard has worked out that the hum, which has a frequency of between three and eight minutes, would require an almost constant supply of magnitude 5.8 earthquakes, which occur only once every few days. Dr Suda believes that winds may be the cause, *Science* reports. He has found that the hum comes and goes during the day, peaking at any point on the Earth's surface when the local time of day is between noon and 8pm, and weakening between midnight and 6am.

This is the same pattern as intense thunderstorms over Africa and Asia, and means that powerful winds striking the Earth's surface are responsible for the hum — disappointing some seismologists, who would prefer it to be caused by internal activity of the Earth.

We don't want to involve the hospital lawyer

Joanna Coles
NEW YORK LIFE

Monday: "I'm sorry, but I'm not going. I *simply* can't face it," says Peter, retrieving a Sierra Nevada pale ale from the fridge when I tell him the bad news. "I simply cannot sit through another bloody birthing class."

I'm not sure I can either. After last weekend's 16-hour epic, a Lamaze Weekend Intensive designed especially for Manhattan Couples With Impossible Schedules, I assumed that we had completed our birth studies for ever. Wrong.

It transpired that in order to use the birthing centre at St Luke's-Roosevelt, which offers a mildly less medical atmosphere than the hospital's standard labour and delivery rooms, we required more credits and would need to supplement our previous weekend crammer with five hours of "Creative Pain Management".

Thursday: "Your husband is going *to* be late?" shrieks Sigrid, the Swedish instructor, as the seven other couples arrange themselves in a circle around her desk.

"He's got flu," I lie. "He wanted to come but he was worried about infecting everyone else."

"Mmm," says Sigrid, in whose fierce and exhausting company we spent last weekend. "Now remember, women's inner wisdom guides them through childbirth."

She swivels her pale eyes, magnified behind their gold frames, and settles on a smart-looking couple near the back.

"Has anyone ever said that to you?" she demands, addressing a woman fiddling with her mobile phone. The woman looks startled.

"I'm sorry, I didn't catch that, can you say it again?" she asks.

"WOMEN'S INNER WISDOM GUIDES THEM THROUGH CHILDBIRTH," roars Sigrid. "HAS ANYONE EVER SAID THAT TO YOU?"

"Er, no, no, they have not," says the woman quickly.

"Exactly!" says Sigrid enigmatically. "Exactly."

This evening Sigrid has swapped her ginger trouser suit for the more formal look of a Scottish matron: a choke-hold white blouse, conifer-green cardigan, long pleated kilt and black boots to contend with the snow.

"Tell everybody a bit about yourself," she orders us. "Tell us who your healthcare provider [the American term for doctor] is, when you're due and where you live in case you want to meet up again."

"Hi, I'm Bailey, this is my husband Radford and we live on the Upper West Side," says an attractive woman whom I recognise from the pre-natal fitness circuit. "We're having a boy [exclamations of support and some applause] and we're due at the end of March."

"Next," shouts Sigrid.

"Hi. I'm Torquin from Norway and this is my wife Anna."

"I am also from Norway," interjects Anna.

"Ah, lots of different nationalities," cries Sigrid, rubbing her hands.

"Hey, I'm Canadian," pipes up Radford.

"Really?" says Sigrid. "I got an e-mail from Toronto today!" She picks up a folder and retrieves a list entitled Risk Assessment, which she asks us to study in order to observe the conditions under which a Caesarean might be necessary.

"Active genital herpes!" she hisses menacingly, staring round the room as everyone immediately looks down, avoiding her glance. "A client of mine had a C-section only last week because she had her first active herpes attack in ten years."

For the next four hours we cover exactly the same ground as the previous weekend until we hit procedures for the newborn. "In New York it is state law that the baby gets a vitamin K shot and antibiotic eye ointment. We do this in front of you. It doesn't stop the baby seeing and it's to prevent infection."

Martha, the woman who had been caught earlier fiddling with the mobile phone, raises her hand. "Is that really necessary?"

"It's *state law*," says Sigrid with a shrug.

"In Norway babies have the vitamin K, we also recommend it, but not the eye ointment," says Anna, who tells us that she is also a midwife.

> Can it be true that one might spend half a day feeding?

"But I read in the Patients' Bill of Rights that we have a right to refuse any treatment," says Martha. "What if we refuse it?"

"Then the hospital's lawyer will get involved," says Sigrid. "But please don't give the nurses hassle. It's so difficult when patients get angry with them. They have to do it otherwise they get fired."

"Well, we may refuse," bristles Martha, nudging her husband for support. He nods wearily: the rim of his Diet Coke baseball cap, which he is wearing backwards, scrapes the wall.

"Well, if you do, you may find it hard to persuade the hospital to discharge you," advises Sigrid, and for a moment I have a vision of Martha wandering around the hospital clasping her child to her breast, trapped behind the hospital doors like those refugees you read about who can't go home and choose to live in airports.

After a 15-minute break for our packed supper, Sigrid produces a pink cushioned breast and announces that the second part of the evening will be spent discussing breastfeeding. "Does anyone know how long a baby should be allowed to be on the breast?"

"In Norway we say about 20 minutes," says Anna.

"Ha!" scoffs Sigrid. "In New York we teach 1999 methods of lactation. The answer is an hour. If the baby is feeding properly, an hour is not a problem."

I stare down at a worksheet that she has handed out informing us that newborn babies need between eight and 12 feeds a day. If each feed takes an hour, that means up to 12 hours a day spent feeding alone. I grimace in secret.

Radford has also been doing the mathematics and, after a murmured discussion with his wife, asks if it can be true that one might spend half a day feeding. "I wish that you had come to my preconception class, designed to be taken three months before you get pregnant," says Sigrid, sighing. "You should look at why you want a baby. Some people should have a puppy instead. And I tell you that I would feel sorry for the puppy!"

'I always regret being open'

Being outspoken has already lost Nick Ross two plum BBC jobs, but he still relishes an argument. Interview by **Grace Bradberry**

SCOPE FEATURES



Presenter Nick Ross: "I didn't get the job because I was a good journalist. I have no false ideas about that. Some people are telegenic, others are not"

Nick Ross's television career began with a condom machine. As deputy president of the students' union at Queen's University, Belfast, he committed the unwittingly revolutionary act of having contraceptive machines installed in both the men's *and* the women's loos. He was interviewed by a BBC TV crew. Soon afterwards he was conducting interviews himself. So was he a natural journalist, or just someone with the right features? At this the voice of reason grows querulous; the narrow eyes become little slits. "I wasn't offered it *remotely* because I was a good journalist — I've got no false ideas about *that*. Some people are telegenic and others are not."

His face has certainly been his fortune. His milieu is that of a media big shot. At the Halcyon Hotel, where we meet at his suggestion, the *maître d'* knows him well and he in turn knows the waiters' names. "Is it Justin or Jason?" he asks one of them, just to get it straight. He lives not far away in a substantial house in Notting Hill and claims not to drink in the Soho media clubs, but names such as David Montgomery (a university contemporary) and Esther Rantzen (cousin of his wife Sarah, a television producer, with whom he has three sons) fall from his lips. But for all this, there is a sense that he doesn't quite sup at the top table.

The trouble is that while Ross in real life is a sophisticate, a *bon viveur* — "Do you have anything rounder?" he asks the wine waiter, in between advising me to go for the heavier dishes, apparently the chef's forte — his television image is that of an Amontillado sherry: smooth, blond and suiting suburban tastes. The reason for our meeting is that the 150th *Crimewatch UK* programme goes out next Tuesday, in a sense a reminder that while Ross is a well-known face on television, he is scarcely one of its hardest hitters. "Don't have nightmares," a friend enjoins, when I mention that I am off to meet him. Ross himself has been known to use the *Crimewatch* catchphrase as a joke.

He is self-deprecating and curiously cocky at the same time, an odd combination in a man who turned 51 last year. But in personality as well as looks he seems perennially youthful, and it has been said that this is why a man whose credits include *The World At One*, *Newsnight* and the masterful *Call Nick Ross* still belongs to the populist end of the BBC's output.

This may well be true, but there is probably another reason. An hour in Nick Ross's company and you realise that here is a man with little or no conception of diplomacy. It makes him rather good company. For example, we are talking about how *Crimewatch* has changed over the years and he tells me that he watched some old videos of the early episodes. Three things struck him, and only the first — "how improved the direction is" — seems an entirely wise thing to say. "The second is how much more money we had in those days." He relates how they re-enacted a spectacular house fire — "There's no way we'd have the finances to do that now. It would all be much lower-key." You can't imagine the BBC hierarchy relishing such observations.

Ross moves to his third point. "Another thing was how badly dressed the police were in those days." So they have improved? "Oh yeah, their pay has gone up now from Burtons to Armani."

Though you might not think it from these remarks, the relationship between police and presenters has grown closer. "In those days we distanced ourselves from the police, because most people didn't *trust* the police." Now they do, "and I think that's because the police are more honest".

The night before we met, a detective had called him at home to fill him in on a case. "I don't remember an officer *ever* calling me at home before," he says. "But, you *know*, a lot of things have changed in the police. The height restriction went. Hugely important. That meant that people like you and me could join." Ross is 5ft 9in, which he obviously considers short. "If you're 6ft — a 6ft male — it gives you a particular view of the world."

> Why must television presenters wear shirts and ties?

Being 5ft 9in gives Ross a rather different view. In person he is sharp and rather impressive, but lacks gravitas. He makes up for this with a certain kind of pluck. Peter Salmon, the Controller of BBC1, who worked with Ross on *Crimewatch UK*, has described him as "the original member of the Awkward Party", prepared to take up an unpopular cause when the whole room, including the producer, disagrees.

He denies that he has a reputation for taking on producers, then admits that the previous evening he had argued the toss with the studio director on *Crimewatch UK*. "Well look," he says. "I would like to wear an open-necked shirt — going out at half past nine at night, when most people at home have changed into T-shirts. Why there should be an edict that we have to wear shirts and ties?"

This spirit of dissent dates, he says, from his disastrous involvement in a programme called *Sixty Minutes*. Until then, his career had been on a swift upward trajectory — a documentary on Robert Mugabe, a reporting job on *Man Alive*, then *Breakfast Time*, where he was the intellectual — Frank Bough, David Icke and Selina Scott were his co-presenters.

"She was almost our Lady Di, in a curious way," says Ross of Selina Scott. I mention that I never quite understood the mystique. "Nor did I," he admits. "When I was working with her, there was an impenetrable wall. We once went shopping together in Harrods and I still couldn't get past it . . . David Icke was an open book, you thought — but you obviously didn't see Chapter 23. That came out of the blue. Ha, ha, ha." (Icke, a sports presenter, later flew over the BBC's cuckoo's nest.)

Then, in 1983, he made the ill-fated decision to join *Sixty Minutes*, a replacement for *Nationwide*. It was axed the following year and his career went into brief freefall. He spent a wretched month at *Newsnight*. "I was only *supposed to* be there for a month, *but it was unhappy* because I *didn't think much of their judgment*, and I was emphatic."

There were consolations. In 1984 *Crimewatch* began and the following year he married Sarah Caplin, then a BBC assistant, at Marylebone Register Office. He once admitted that they argued a lot, but the *marriage* has lasted and apparently *his pre-show chat* is *often about his three sons*. "We all get on pretty well, actually, but the boys are just becoming teenagers, so it may be different soon."

Luckily they were very young when Ross unwisely admitted to a childhood spell of shoplifting at his local Woolworths in Wallington, Surrey. Should his sons find the press cuttings, it would be worse, one imagines, than discovering old school reports. "Yeah, but I'm very careful not to play goody-goody-two-shoes with my children," he says.

> I don't play goody two-shoes with my children

His own father was a personnel director for Mullard's, the electrical components people, and both parents did voluntary work for the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Marriage Guidance Council. He has absorbed this social conscience, playing the have-a-go hero on occasions, chasing after a burglar stark naked; leaping from his car to tackle a man who was trying to throttle a young woman with a scarf. "If I see something wrong, I intervene," he says. "I'm like that about arguments, as well. I like getting involved. My wife is like that, too. We do it together."

She is less at one with him on office politics, however. When Peter Sissons took over *Question Time*, Ross made it desperately plain that he was miffed not to have got the job.

"I *always* regret being open," he laughs. "That's not strictly true. While I admire diplomacy, I don't admire duplicity . . . What surprises *me* is the way in which some of my colleagues will say very cheerily 'I've got to do some brown-nosing'. My wife is deeply critical of my inability to do it. And it is actually an inability, not an intellectual judgment. I'm completely hopeless at it. If I think something's crap, I say so."

He did this in 1997, when the then producer of *Call Nick Ross* refused to switch to a more topical subject the night before the show. Ross left and, in the same year, dropped BBC2's *Westminster With Nick Ross*. "That's the only thing I've regretted. Giving up two eponymous programmes within a year was probably not very sensible."

Apparently there is now another major project in the pipeline, although he won't say what. His ambition to host *Question Time* has waned. "I was very single-minded . . . but then *Question Time* ceased to be the thing that everybody admired. Now, if somebody offered me a chat show, I'd be quite as happy doing that as anything else."

It is then, towards the end of our lunch, that I notice something rather interesting. Ross, the man who has always looked about 12 years old, has grey eyebrows. It's a funny thing, but he suddenly seems much more dignified. I wonder whether the powers-that-be might view him differently as he ages?

"That's where life is a bitch for girls and not for boys," he suggests earnestly. Who knows, perhaps a greyer, grizzlier Nick Ross will one day be a heavyweight.

● *A special edition of* Crimewatch UK, *marking the 150th anniversary, will be shown next Tuesday at 9.30pm.*

Oliver's army is here today

Thomas Strathclyde on Blair's Cromwellian Lords reforms

Today the Government will invite the British people to board a train to yet another unknown destination. It will publish a White Paper and a Bill designed to destroy the exisiting House of Lords and upset the balance between the two Houses of Parliament, without itself having, or declaring, any view of what the long-term powers, functions or composition of the Lords should be. It is hard to imagine anything more reckless or irresponsible.

This Bill is not a reform to regulations on the plucking of the tail feathers of pigeons. It affects the independence of the revising chamber in our Parliament. The Lords is where citizens and businesses are protected against bad law. It is — in the words of its sacked Labour Leader, Lord Richard — "effectively the only place in which the legislature can curb the power of the executive".

Change in Parliament should be effected only after careful cross-party discussion and full public consultation. Instead, in a typical display of arrogance, the Government will plunge on with scarcely a week's "consultation".

This House of Lords has not served the people badly. Indeed, on matters like the absurd beef-on-the-bone ban, the age of consent, the fair treatment of students at Scottish universities and the right of people to vote for a candidate of their choice by name at elections, I suspect the House is closer to the people's idea of what is sensible than the "people's Government".

> Heredity is part of our tradition and every family's instinct

It is bizarre that when Tony Blair is "relaunching" his Government ready to "deliver" on the schools and hospitals which are fast descending into chaos, his flagship priority is to spend a year on an ideological crusade against hereditary peers.

We would have chosen neither this priority, nor this Bill. But, as with Labour's other ill-thought-through constitutional changes, we have to deal with the situation as we find it. That is why — if they are proposed — we will back Lord Weatherill's amendments to keep 100 hereditary peers in the interim House. This is not a trade union pact to preserve hereditaries. We want to avoid the country being left, indefinitely, with a totally nominated quango.

Heredity may seem outdated to modernisers. But it is part of our national tradition and every family's instinct. The fact that peers cannot be "deselected" assures their independence. Something at least as independent should come in their place. I know of no wholly nominated legislature that has any moral authority or standing. Certainly, Lord Irvine of Lairg and Baroness Jay of Paddington are no more "democratic" than I am.

No British politician since Cromwell has claimed the power Mr Blair now hopes to exercise — to determine the party balance and composition of a House of Parliament. The Prime Minister has become sensitive to this charge. He boasts that he will not exercise this huge growth of patronage to the full. He says he will subcontract the choice of crossbench peers to a new committee.

But who will appoint this great and good committee? Mr Blair? To whom will they be accountable? No one. Who will vet the peers they propose? Will the "independent" members they nominate have to declare their political and business links? If someone gave money to Labour years ago, but has never joined the party, could she be a "crossbench" peer? Where would Bernie Ecclestone stand? Could he — who has done so much for motor-racing — be created a crossbench peer?

And what does Mr Blair want of a House of Lords? Unlike the previous Conservative Government, which accepted 40 per cent of its 250 defeats in the Lords, this Government has almost always insisted on having its way. This is true even when they are defeated on the votes of life peers alone. It is not the presence of hereditary peers that seems to rankle with Mr Blair so much as the thought that he might ever be asked to think again.

If the Lords is *genuinely* reformed, it will be made more powerful, the Commons still weaker. I would welcome a more powerful and independent chamber. But would Mr Blair? If he would, let him say so. He should do as Harold Wilson did on his Lords Reform Bill in 1968-69, come to Parliament and make a statement setting out where he stands and why.

It is still not too late for Mr Blair to shelve his "flagship" measure and to attend to the "real business" of jobs, schools and health. We have forced him to agree to set up a royal commission to look into the long-term future of the Upper House — that was not mentioned in his manifesto.

A commission is a good idea. It should have the widest possible terms of reference. It must have as a chairman a senior judge, whose independence from government cannot be impugned. It should be able to look at the powers, functions and composition of the House. It must look at the fallout from new parliaments and assemblies within our kingdom, and the impact of new Labour's surrender of further powers to Brussels.

It has a great task. In its hand may lie the key to rebalancing our tormented constitution and keeping our country one. In any sane scheme of things this process of thought and consultation would come *before* Parliament was changed, not after. But in the Walter Mitty world of spin and slogan we now seem to inhabit, action comes before thought. The Government's Bill will strengthen the patronage of the Prime Minister and the power of the executive. It will do nothing to advance the interests of the people Parliament should serve. But then isn't that increasingly the trademark of "new Labour"?

The author is the Tory Leader in the House of Lords.

Bronwen Maddox's column will appear tomorrow.



Big bang theorist

Cook's foreign policy towards Kosovo has been reduced to a four-letter word

Simon Jenkins

So what happens now? What has fate to offer the echoing threats of the laptop bombardiers?

Last October the might of the Anglo-American alliance reached a so-called agreement with the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic. It was a "Saddam", a jerrybuilt, heads-you-win, tails-we-lose deal, which came unstuck in next to no time. Hundreds more Kosovans are dead, tens of thousands homeless and Nato generals are again dancing attendance in Belgrade. The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, is dancing too. Thumbing his battered lexicon, he incants "deeply foolish . . . unacceptable . . . shocking . . . murderous . . . horrific". Mr Cook recites all this with sombre mien, looks down at his word list and finds the armoury is bare. His mouth opens and shuts in silence. There is just a ghost whispering in his ear. "Real men drop bombs".

We are back to our old friend, the bomb. British foreign policy is now a four-letter word. So bankrupt is this neo-Palmerstonian stance, so counter-productive to its goals, so devoid of success, that it can only respond to 45 dead Albanians by threatening 45 dead Serbs. Policy is dumbed down to a bomb for a bomb and a corpse for a corpse. Dictators who sneer at Mr Cook's heat-seeking adjectives must feel the blast of his heat-seeking bombs.

Last year Mr Cook and other Nato bosses planned a bombing campaign whose goal was to force Belgrade to stop persecuting the separatist Kosovan Liberation Army (KLA) and to offer devolution without independence to Kosovo. A roughly similar prescription has defeated the Northern Ireland Office for 20 years. It was so unfeasible and unenforceable that the American envoy, Richard Holbrooke, had to race to Belgrade to make smoke for a Nato retreat. Mr Milosevic eats Western diplomats for breakfast. He promised and lied and Nato climbed down.

That October deal was as rotten as a deal could be. Monitors were sent (or rather sent back) to Kosovo without weapons or guards. The atrocities continued, with a horror that seems uniquely Balkan. Serbian withdrawal was a predictable sham. Devolution did not occur. Mr Holbrooke's appeasement of Mr Milosevic was staged to flatter Nato and Western politicians. It merely reassured Belgrade that the West had a big mouth but would not go to war. Yet it emboldened the KLA to think that, as in Bosnia, a few more atrocities might jolt Nato into taking sides against the Serbs. The October deal sent the worst possible message to everyone. Mr Cook welcomed it.

Nato must now decide whether to start the same disastrous round over again. There has been another apparent Serb atrocity in Kosovo. Mr Milosevic has done a Saddam, and expelled a monitor. Britain has declared its patience exhausted and resumed sabre-rattling. There is nothing in the United Nations Charter to give Britain and the United States the right to a unilateral attack on Yugoslavia for actions "essentially within the domestic jurisdiction" of that state. But the UN is a limp rag. As Mr Cook's approval of the American attack on Sudan showed, he is not over-concerned with international law. In defence of airstrikes he might plead Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, on protecting international security. But airstrikes are more likely to destabilise the region than calm it. It will encourage cross-border support for the KLA and inspire every separatist group in the Balkans.

As in Iraq, bombing is meaningless without military follow-up. The reason for bombing Yugoslavia is to alter the balance of power on the ground in Kosovo. That is achieved only by sending in troops. Such invasion is what the KLA has been encouraged by Mr Cook's policy to expect. Is it meant? If not, the threat cruelly invites KLA resurgence and ruthless Serbian suppression. But invasion cannot police an active civil war. It must either assist the KLA in the military dismembering of a European state. Or it must help the Serbs to restore Yugoslav sovereignty against KLA rebellion. Which of these dreadful goals is now British policy?

There is at present a Mediterranean country whose atrocities were daily on the television screens. It is called Lebanon. In the 1980s it was racked by civil war, invaded by its neighbour Israel and threatened by Syria to the East. Syria was a pariah state whose dictator, General Assad, had mass-murdered his own people, sponsored anti-Western terrorism and destabilised his region. The West decided to save Lebanon from this horror. Interventions from 1982 to 1984 saw American, British, French and Italian troops struggling "to keep the warring factions apart". The carnage continued. The atrocity rate soared. Nothing whatever was gained. The intervention was wholly inept.

Western troops eventually withdrew in February 1984, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, admitting that Beirut was "too dangerous". Within months, neighbouring Syria took effective control of northern Lebanon. Since then, Beirut has been returning to normal. General Assad is no longer a Saddam-like monster — any more than Saddam himself once was. He is regarded with good favour in Washington, a force for stability, possibly even a Middle East peace-broker.

Lebanon is not Yugoslavia, any more than it is Bosnia or Iraq. But it offers a crude answer to those who claim there is no alternative to bombing. The alternative to bombing is not bombing. It is to remove the threat of military intervention, as in Lebanon. Many dictatorships in Asia and South America have contrived to make their own way towards democracy without the goad of Western bombs or sanctions. Prosperity, trade, contact and advancing political maturity have been sufficient. All are currently being denied to Belgrade. The thesis that a bombed, isolated, embattled and impoverished Yugoslavia is more, rather than less, sympathetic to Kosovan autonomy defies common sense. The thesis could be held only by an idiot, a Cabinet minister or a large body of "liberal" opinion.

Strange things have happened to the old Left-Right dichotomy in foreign affairs. Today's liberal is a Gladstonian interventionist. His lens scans the globe, seeking a venue for his outrage and a target for his Tomahawk. His imperialism brooks no opposition. A single televised corpse says he is right. The conservative by contrast is now the pragmatist. With the Cold War over and the great battle won, he is content to let the world's tears flow where they will. They are not his business. He will mop them with his charity, but not set the world to rights.

In principle I am in the first camp with the liberals. But the sheer incompetence of the camp leaders drives me out of the tent. The old generals at least knew the meaning of victory. They knew what it was to win. The new interventionists crave defeat. In Iraq and now in Kosovo, every Western battle plan is mindless of consequences, military or political. Mr Cook and his colleagues seek a big bang, then another, then another. Like crusaders, they care not what death and destruction they wreak. They just want to make it to Jerusalem and back, laden with moral loot.

Former Yugoslavia has seen every phase of "new world order" mission creep. First it welcomed humanitarian aid to civil war victims. Then it saw foreign governments drawn into protecting that aid with troops. The protection became partisan. Heavy weapons arrived. The troops became militarily active, then players in local politics. The British people were categorically promised that Britain would not become embroiled in the war of Yugoslavian succession. The promise has not been kept. The logic of intervention was inescapable, from the arrival of the first humble soldier to the present computerised bomb-targeting of the whole of Yugoslavia. This is what historians call the madness of war.

We should wind back the plot. The terrible happenings in Kosovo cry out for charity, as do atrocities in a dozen other global conflicts. That charity should go impartial and unarmed. We appear incapable of repairing the politics of these places. Every attempt ends in failure. Every bombastic intervention makes things worse. But to make them worse only to make us feel better is the height of immorality.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'Let us not linger, for a very slightly familiar bald man in a floral pinny has come in to lay for lunch'

Alan Coren

Reluctant as I am to offer further confirmation to those of you who feel I should get out more — throw myself into cribbage or Flamenco dancing, find a dog to walk, an instrument to master, a horse to hobby, anything rather than spend any more time woolgathering in my loft — I have to tell you (for it is my curse to do so) that in the summer of AD97,999 it will be possible to dig for winkles on Cricklewood beach.

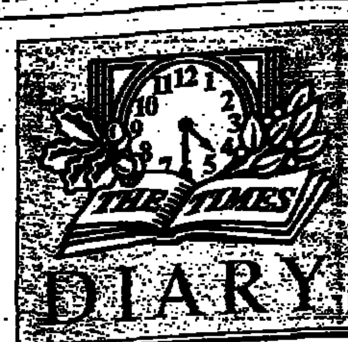
I worked that out after only an hour or so this morning. It is not, of course, what I climbed up into the loft to do, what I planned to do in the loft was have a bit of a think about whether President Saddam Hussein might not in fact be Lord Lucan. They are, after all, identical and of an age, and it would explain much. But while you may rest assured that I shall return to this theory at a later date, for the time being I prefer to nip forward 96,000 years to the time not yet being, so that I can trot downstairs from this loft, knot a hankie about my head, and go for a paddle. Because hardly had I begun investigating the likeliest fugitive route, in 1974, from Belgravia to Baghdad than a wheeling seagull suddenly shrieked outside my window, not merely raising my head from my atlas but also reminding me of a letter to *The Times* a week before, from the Chief Scientist of English Nature. I do not of course mean that it was the seagull's intention to do this, it was just an ordinary shriek. I mean only that my memory was jogged in that marine nano-second to the remarks of Dr Keith Duff, who had written to say that the recent erosion of Beachy Head was a natural force, and we should think twice before shoring the coastline up with concrete, learning instead "to live with change rather than always seeking to prevent it".

What could a woolgatherer do at this recollection but slap shut his atlas and phone English Nature in Peterborough? And yes, though Dr Duff was not at his desk, I did eventually get through to a helpful chap who could answer my question. The answer is that our southern coastline is eroding at roughly a metre a year. So I thanked him, opened the atlas again, took a ruler, and noted that the distance between Beachy Head and Cricklewood, as the seagull flies, is 96km. By AD97,999, therefore, the sea will have reached my front gate. Or, rather, 207ft below it, this being my gate's height above sea-level, according to an equally helpful chap at the Ordnance Survey office. My house, in short, will be perched on the White Cliffs of Cricklewood, overlooking a charming little South Coast resort.

Let us come down from the loft now, very slowly, three millennia a step, and look about us. See, my dining room contains not one large table but four small ones, each with a bottle of HP Sauce chained to it, and a jug of plastic cornflowers, and a cruet set engraved "Seaview Boarding House". The walls once hung with pictures now sport framed notices: "Please Do Not Take Towels To Beach And Oblige" and "After Meals Ensure Your Serviette Is Replaced In Ring Provided". Let us, though, *not* linger, for a very slightly familiar bald man in a floral pinny has just come in to lay for lunch, and it is time for us to pop outside.

Oh, look, a fine summer morning, the sea-mist lifting to reveal Hendon Pier and the Edgware Lightship bobbing beyond, and the cheery strains of *William Tell* wafting up from the bandstand below, gilded gem of that fine broad promenade which stretches all the way from Golders Cove to Wembley Bay. Focus the big brass telescope standing on Seaview's fetchingly gnomed front lawn, and what do we see? We see beach huts, and whelk-stalls, and ice-cream carts, and striped wooden deckchairs, we see little ones cross-legged on the sand, hooting at Punch and Judy, and large ones wrapped in towels struggling to remove their trousers, we see pedalos and donkeys and a motor-boat rocking lazily beside a blackboard offering trips to Finchley Island . . .

How reassuring it all is! How right Dr Duff was to urge us to live with change, for nothing really changes! Even though, as we step away from the telescope, a tiny piece of cliff beyond our feet breaks off, and falls.

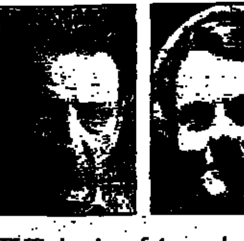


Freud slip

A GUILTY conscience? Lord Goodman — alleged to have siphoned £10 million from Viscount Portman — left a valuable Lucian Freud etching of himself to Christopher Portman, the aggrieved viscount's heir. The vivid scribbling, one of four used by Freud towards a drawing for the National Portrait Gallery, was donated secretly to Portman, to the surprise of friends.

Lady Avon — Anthony Eden's widow who nursed Goodman to the end — admired the works and all assumed that she would inherit one. Instead, Lady A (pictured below with the artist) received 40 volumes of Trollope, poor dear.

"Christopher realises how valuable it is," Lady Portman assures me from Antigua. Why didn't the old rogue leave it to the viscount? "Oh, I don't think he wanted it." Wise, inheritance tax being higher even than lawyers' bills.



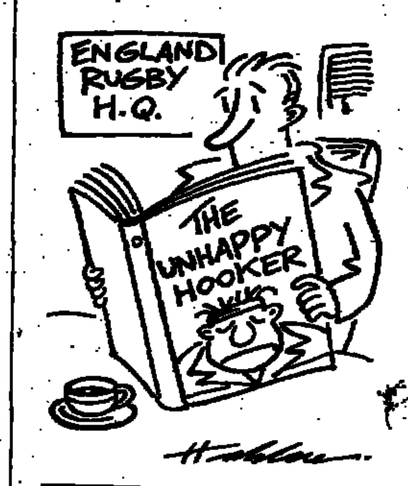
● *THE demise of Amanda Platell recalls a recent* Spectator *lunch when the* Express on Sunday *Editress fell into conversation with Charlie Whelan about Max Hastings, amiable Editor of the* Evening Standard. *Max could not last long, they concurred. Perhaps: but rather longer than both of them.*

Cover up

LAP DANCING is hitting Hampstead. And the suburb's PC residents have begun a campaign to remove the joint. Secrets is just yards from South Hampstead High School. Peggy Jay, President of the Heath and Hampstead Society, is rallying her fully clad troops: "I have lived here for 86 years and it is not what we expect."

John Humphrys, the grand inquisitor, wishes them well, after protesting against Secrets' other club near his Hammersmith bachelor pad. "I am very annoyed about it. I wrote a tough piece excoriating them, but they cut out some phrases and turned them into approval," he said. "We had some success in court though. At least we got the judge to make the girls keep their knickers on." For that, I am sure all residents will be grateful.

● *OFF to France to bag honorary degrees: the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Hume — and Lord St John of Fawsley: "I'm the party's nonconformist conscience."*



Dance flaw

THE Oxford Union is in a spin. The Austrian Ambassador is coming to its ball. Problem. Union President, Theo Mills, cannot dance; and as the ambassador is a Dr Eva Nowotny, Mills should lead her in the waltz.

Enter the Rev David Johnson who, with a stray count, is teaching the pup. "It is like Steptoe trying to teach his father," wails Johnson.

● *PETER MANDELSON is chums with his fellow bachelor, Sir Edward Heath, says Anthony Barnett in* Prospect: *"Both single. Both meritocratic products of suburbs. Both able and obsessive. Each arrogant, lacking popular touch." Poor Peter: an insult too far.*

Gay abandon

PLATO should be cited in sex education, says Roger Scruton. Greek love, then? Nope. "The distinction between natural and perverted desire plays no part in current education." Plato's teaching, that gays should sublimate their desires, is crucial: "That is what Plato perceived, in his celebrations of the love that bears his name." Can't see it catching on.

JASPER GERARD

THE TIMES

HAGUE'S IDENTITY

Strong themes will achieve little without policy detail

Only a brave politician is willing to explore issues of identity and what it means to be British. As William Hague conceded last night, there used to be something very un-British about trying to define who the British are. The consequence of that embarrassed silence has been that a few, mostly academic, observers have been able to portray the United Kingdom as an artificial creation, built from opposition to Frenchmen and Catholics and lacking any form of coherent cultural core. It was partly that charge that the Conservative leader sought, in a well-crafted and eloquent address, to confront.

Mr Hague's willingness to undertake this task is welcome and his arguments are persuasive. A country that is about to undertake an era of intense constitutional change needs to have some sense of itself before deciding what sorts of institutions it seeks to abolish, change or create. The force of Mr Hague's text was also appear an effective rebuke to those within his party who would abandon Scotland outright and seek to expand and exploit an emerging sense of English nationalism. The dangerous flirtation of the Shadow Cabinet with an English Parliament is at last at an end.

The Tory leader sought to draw distinctions between Britain's democratic traditions and those that pervade continental Europe. He did so not in a tone of splendid isolation or arrogant superiority but as a matter of simple fact. It is indeed the case that, as Mr Hague asserted, "where we invest our national identity in our political institutions, many other European countries have been let down by their political institutions within living memory". For that reason the constitutional implications of close integration within the European Union are more profound and more destabilising for Britain than for almost all of our neighbours.

This was also, however, a coded speech about the Conservative Party as well as the wider country. Mr Hague emphasised the need for Conservatives to accept Britain in its modern form rather than wallow knee-deep in nostalgia. He acknowledged that his party had created the impression that it was "obsessed with economics" and implied that in future it would seek to fight on other fields, notably cultural and social values. He pointed in broad terms to the policy review ahead.

That examination should, in truth, have started already. The public still has little idea about what parts of the Tory past Mr Hague is willing to repudiate, still less what new ideas might be adopted. The Conservative Party listens to Mr Hague's message of change and inclusiveness and applauds politely. There is not much evidence that it is willing to undertake reform on anything like the scale that its leader rightly recognises must be done.

As a result, the Tory thinking appears to be on hold as Mr Hague awaits some movement in the polls that will in turn allow him more space for manoeuvre. Able spokesmen such as Ann Widdecombe and David Willetts have been put in high-profile posts but with precious little new that they are permitted to articulate.

There is a twofold danger in this strategy. Either the voters will not return to the fold without a clearer signal that the Conservatives have repented, or any small upward shift in public opinion will be seized upon by some in the parliamentary party as an alibi to postpone fundamental change once again.

Britain may not suffer from an identity crisis: but the condition of the Conservative Party is far less certain. It continues to be seen by a stark majority of voters, representing the last, discredited administration, not the official Opposition, and certainly not an alternative Government. Three years ago, when John Major invited a challenge to his leadership, his opponents responded with the prophetic slogan "no change, no chance". Those words are equally relevant to Tory policy today.

RETURN OF THE KING

As Jordan celebrates, it speculates

They danced in the streets, sang and cheered. The airport was filled with flags, bagpipes and banners and a million people lined the narrow streets of Amman to welcome their King. In all his 47 years on the throne, King Hussein of Jordan has never known a homecoming like this.

Returning after six months abroad, intensive cancer treatment and a taxing negotiating session to clinch the Wye accords, the King could scarcely contain his emotion. He is the world's longest-serving executive ruler in one of the world's most turbulent regions. Jordan is a country largely fashioned, held together and given patriotic substance by its monarch. The relationship has not always been easy: King Hussein has survived numerous assassination attempts, coup plots, uprisings and attacks by his neighbours.

He has been isolated in his support for the West, reviled by opponents of the Hashemite dynasty and denounced by Arab nationalists. He has seen his advisers murdered, had to give up claim to the West Bank and lost administrative control of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. Yet he has brought a stability and prosperity to a country that has provided an oasis of moderation in a harsh desert of hatred. Jordanians know that they have been better ruled than any of their Arab neighbours. A quarter of the population filled the streets to give him a raucous welcome. No drummed-up applause by vain dictators has matched anything like it.

Yet there was a poignancy to his return. The King has been proclaimed cured. He does indeed look better than the pictures of the shrunken, bald figure who helped President Clinton get to agreement on an Israeli withdrawal last autumn. But the King himself already speaks of the time when he will no longer rule Jordan.

Like John of Gaunt looking with prophetic eye at the future, the King has awoken speculation about his successor. For years his youngest brother, Prince Hassan, has been the designated Crown Prince. After taking over day-to-day decision-making, he has ruled as regent for the past six months. On the whole, events have run smoothly during this time. But throughout Jordan there is recognition that the Oxford-educated Prince, a man short in charisma but long in verbosity, lacks the agility of his brother. He is a respected thinker, committed to peace with Israel. But in times of crisis he fails to inspire his countrymen.

Already destabilising rumours of dynastic struggle have begun. There is talk of rival aspirations for future succession between the sons of King Hussein and Prince Hassan and intrigue by their mothers. The King is thought now to hope that the Crown will pass directly to his 18-year-old son Hamza, who has impressed those around him with his charisma and young resemblance to his father. Any such change, however, could unleash corrosive ambitions that have so far been held in check in this extended family. The utmost delicacy is needed for any change, a quality for which the King has long been noted. It could be his last, most important service to his country.

FARMING FASHIONS

Diversity is agriculture's best option

Yesterday the Commons Agricultural Select Committee published a report on rural development. Agriculture, it recognised, is no longer the mainstay of rural society. Only through diversification will farmers find the means to survive. Some four fifths of Britain is currently farmed. The agricultural industry constitutes an important resource of land, capital and local knowledge. But it still remains largely untapped.

Farmers are notoriously sceptical of change. Long after hundreds of Londoners have made a scrummage through the organic stalls of Spitalfields market part of their weekend shopping routine, the leader column of *Farmers Weekly* belatedly announces in the current issue that "organic systems have come of age". The staid publication, in large part financed by the advertising of agrochemical industries, reflects a significant shift in farmers' attitudes as it condones organic "muck and magic" as a "serious profit-generating operation". Battered by the beef ban, Asian market collapse and an over-strong pound, even the most traditional British farmers are looking to new initiatives as they struggle to save their businesses from bankruptcy.

Many are diversifying their stock and crop mixes. Deer, ostriches and alpaca are raised on land where cattle and sheep once grazed. Lupins and linseed are grown alongside cereals. High quality, locally labelled food finds a specialist but growing market, and farm retail shops and kitchen restaurants are opening all over the country. Other farmers are catering for the tourist trade as barn conversions and caravan sites provide accommodation. Pets corners attract children. Millet mazes and rural cemeteries make more unusual options.

But diversification is not an instant panacea. Farmers hold one of the nation's most precious commodities in their safekeeping, the landscape. Fields planted with plastic cloches may shield rows of delicate lettuces from harsh Welsh winds, but they despoil valley views. Off-track driving may bring extra income, but it destroys rural peace. The countryside is not a playground.

Farmers are the stewards of moors and mountains, fields and fens. But this stewardship comes at a price. While many wait for the European Union to come to its senses with a system of CAP reform that will not just benefit big producers, the British Government must help to tide low-intensity farmers over difficult times. The subsidies it offers must be far more specifically targeted — not simply directed at the end product. They must be meted out in such a way that they help to protect the lifestyles of those such as hill farmers whose traditional agricultural practices preserve the beauty of the British landscape as we know it now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call to close secure training centres

From the Social Policy Manager of The Children's Society

Sir, The Government's announcement that it intends to send in the riot police to control children at the Medway Secure Training Centre in Kent shows, as your report of January 14 rightly points out, how illusory the progressive dreams of the secure training centres (STCs) have proved. In fact, the centre should never have been built.

If those of us who work with disturbed and damaged children are going to make a difference to these children's lives we need to provide small units where children will respond to individual attention. Put a large group of damaged and disturbed children together and you have a tinderbox. Bad behaviour inevitably breeds worse behaviour.

The Children's Society made these views clear when the centres were first announced under the previous Government, as did magistrates, other children's charities and penal reform groups. In opposition, a member of the current Government described them as "colleges of crime". Despite these warnings, the Government not only opened Medway STC, it is planning several similar centres.

This Government has talked a great deal about individual responsibility. To provide an unsuitable service to these disturbed children and then to threaten to send in the riot police is an abnegation of its own responsibility. It is iniquitous for this Government to turn round and blame disturbed children who have been left in an institution that is known to be failing them.

The only solution to this problem is to close down the secure training centres in favour of small units which can respond to these damaged children as individuals.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SMITH,
Social Policy Manager,
The Children's Society,
Edward Rudolf House,
Margery Street, WC1X 0JL.
January 14.

Kosovo's children

From the Deputy Director of Unicef-UK

Sir, As dozens of vulnerable women and children flee Racak (letter, January 19), Kosovan children — both Albanian and Serb — are again caught in the crossfire. They are at risk not only from mortars, but also from silent killers like pneumonia, typhoid, hepatitis, and the highest incidence of polio in Europe.

Visiting Kosovo, even during the ceasefire, I found severely traumatised children. They were untypically quiet, too scared to play, and racked with bronchitis and acute respiratory diseases. The fragile peace enabled the launch of an immunisation campaign, restocking of health centres and restarting of education.

Yet, last week, even before the Racak killings, our field workers were repeatedly prevented from reaching outlying areas. Now we fear that the explosive political climate will trigger greater uncertainty and deprivation for children. It is hoped that the politicians negotiating peace and aid for Kosovo will put the needs of children — for shelter, medicines, education and safety — first.

Yours sincerely,
MARIE STAUNTON,
Deputy Director,
Unicef-UK,
55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3NB.
January 18.

A doctor in the House?

From Dr C. J. Barrow

Sir, Having clearly stated: "I have a degree and a PhD", Ms Dawn Primarolo was asked by Valerie Grove (interview, January 9) why she didn't use the title of Doctor.

She replied: "Because I didn't actually submit my thesis . . . but my excuse is that two years into it I was elected."

Given the earlier claim, this is rather like saying I have a GCSE but failed to sit the exams.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BARROW,
20 Coed Mor,
Derwen Fawr, Sketty,
Swansea SA2 8BQ.
January 9.

Many happy returns?

From Mr Prentis Hancock

Sir, Mr J. R. Catlin is at liberty to look forward to any set date he chooses for the return to their homelands of exiled Scots and Welsh (letter, January 15).

In the interim, he might like to consider the effects on the world, let alone on Britain, should the Scottish diaspora decide to up sticks and return to their clans.

Who would run things? Westminster might be hard put to find a Cabinet.

Yours ay,
PRENTIS HANCOCK,
Flat B, 10 Tadema Road,
World's End,
Chelsea, SW10 0NU.
prentis@worldzend.u-net.com
January 15.

Hume's relationship with Carey

From Mr Martin Pendergast

Sir, I suspect Cardinal Hume will have raised an eyebrow, one of his more common gestures of disapproval, when reading Ann Widdecombe's perception of Anglican-Roman Catholic relations (report, "Hume denies he has contempt for Carey", January 14).

Behind the simple Benedictine image of the cardinal is a consummate yet sensitive politician, a quality which Miss Widdecombe might seek to emulate.

I suggest her view of the cardinal's appreciation of the Archbishop of Canterbury reflects more her disaffected Anglican outlook and the axes which she continues to grind.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN PENDERGAST,
57 Lyme Grove, E9 6PX.
January 14.

From Sir Robin Day

Sir, In an extract from the new book about Cardinal Basil Hume which you printed with special prominence on January 14, the cardinal is said to have described in 1977 how he had been interviewed by me about celibacy, in a way which was "potentially embarrassing".

This, insofar as it refers to me, is untrue. I have never interviewed the cardinal. I am informed that he was astonished, as was I, to read this story.

The author, Mr Neil Balfour, has apologised to me for his mistake. He appears to have confused my name with that of some other interviewer. Whoever did the objectionable interview, it was definitely not me.

Yours truly,
ROBIN DAY,
Garrick Club, WC2E 9AY.
January 15.

From Mr Richard Willmott

Sir, How unfortunate it is that Ann Widdecombe cannot emulate her hero and let her contempt for the Archbishop of Canterbury never be "publicly discernible".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILLMOTT
(Headmaster),
The Dixie Grammar School,
Market Bosworth,
Leicestershire CV13 0LE.
January 14.

The Jacqueline we remember

From Mr Julian Lloyd Webber and others

Sir, *Hilary and Jackie*, a film purporting to chronicle the life of cellist Jacqueline du Pré and based on a book by her brother and sister, is to be released this week. It concentrates heavily on an affair which Jacqueline had with her sister's husband and portrays her as selfish, spoilt and manipulative.

This is not the Jacqueline du Pré that we, as her friends and colleagues, knew.

Jacqueline possessed a wonderful joy in making music and a unique ability to bring that joy to her audience. This is the Jacqueline du Pré that we remember.

Yours,
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
ITZHAK PERLMAN,
WILLIAM PLEETH,
M. ROSTROPOVICH,
P. ZUKERMAN,
c/o IMG Artists,
Media House,
3 Burlington Lane, W4 2TH.
January 18.

Legal basis for 'presumed consent' of organ donors

From Professor Margaret Esiri and others

Sir, There is another aspect to the question of donors' "presumed consent" (letters, January 13). This concerns the use of tissue for research rather than for transplantation.

We are engaged in research that aims to increase understanding of schizophrenia by studying brain tissue from sufferers after death (and tissue from healthy persons unaffected by this devastating disease, for comparative purposes). This is extremely difficult to acquire, largely because permission is needed from next-of-kin at a time when they are likely to be distressed by their recent bereavement.

Some doctors and nurses understandably hesitate to ask for this permission for fear of increasing distress or because they are unaware of the need for such tissue.

If there was legislation that enabled tissue to be made available for medical research as long as no objection had been made known, research such as ours would receive a considerable boost and improved understanding of schizophrenia and other brain diseases be brought that much closer.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET ESIRI
(Professor of Neuropathology,
Oxford University),
TIM CROW
(Professor of Psychiatry,
Oxford University),
PAUL HARRISON
(Reader in Psychiatry,
Oxford University),
Schizophrenia Research Group,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford OX2 6HE.
margaret.esiri@clinical-neurology.oxford.ac.uk
January 14.

From Dr David W. Evans

Sir, The presumption of consent to anything seems to me to be a very dangerous development and I wonder what the lawyers may have to say about it. If consent to be used as organ donors is to be presumed, it is imperative that everyone should fully understand what may happen to them if they do not register objection.

They must know that their organs will, if they are pronounced "brainstem dead", be removed while mechanical ventilation is continued and their hearts continue to beat unaided to maintain their blood circulation: they will not be dead in the commonly understood sense.

They should also be aware that there is vigorous international debate about "brain death" and that the UK version of it has never been accepted as a sufficient basis for certifying death in the US. Recent therapeutic advances suggest that it may not even be an invariably irrecoverable premortal state.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. EVANS,
27 Gough Way, Cambridge CB3 9LN.
January 15.

Owners' rights

From Mr Neil Howlett

Sir, Anthea Lawson's amusing article (Weekend, January 9) about Mr Sam Gratton, who intended to purchase the lease of a flat in southeast London which he then discovered to be situated above a brothel, raises an interesting issue for lawyers and all potential purchasers of a house or flat.

The buyer of a detached house may have no easy redress against antisocial neighbours. However, the buyer of a flat in a building or of a house in a development can and should acquire rights to prevent any such misbehaviour, and the lease should include "covenants" (promises) designed for that purpose. So should the transfers of houses on any well prepared estate development, giving the owner the right to take action directly against other owners who break restrictions on the use of their property.

At the very least, tenants or owners should have the right to require the freeholder or developer to take action against other tenants or owners.

The kind of restrictions imposed will normally prohibit illegal or immoral activity, although this may not always help those in a similar position to Mr Gratton: prostitution in itself is not illegal, so a prostitute operating alone is not breaking the law. However, anyone living with the prostitute and living off his or her earnings will be.

Causing nuisance — such as excessive numbers of or abusive visitors, especially at odd hours — may also be prohibited. So may running a business. In most cases the covenants will restrict such activities, not only by the owner but those permitted by the owner. The key to success is to have records taken at the time which will prove the case.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL HOWLETT,
Harris and Harris (solicitors),
11 Stony Street,
Frome, Somerset BA11 1BU.
January 10.

Advance intelligence

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, The news that their Government has ordered Chinese airline bosses to fly on New Year's Day in order to calm passengers' trepidation about the millennium bug (report, January 16) must surely be welcomed in Europe.

China's midnight comes some seven or eight hours before ours; so if their millennium bug causes anything to go wrong we'll be sure to hear of it pretty quickly, and consequently have plenty of time to land safely ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House, Wildhern,
Andover, Hampshire SP11 0JF.
January 16.

Millennium Bart

From Dr Morley Halse

Sir, Seeing the *Simpsons* featured in Saturday's meg@ section of *The Times* serves to remind us that the year 2000 is significant only as a result of a long process of evolution that has given us four fingers and a thumb on each hand.

If, like Bart Simpson, we had four digits per hand, base eight arithmetic would be universal.

Next year would then be 3720 and so nothing particularly special.

Yours sincerely,
MORLEY HALSE,
6 Ashbee Gardens,
Herne Bay,
Kent CT6 6TU.
m.r.halse@ukc.ac.uk
January 11.

Wigs for judges

From Mr Andrew Mier

Sir, In claiming that wigs make judges appear out of touch with the country inhabited by the litigants (report, January 12), Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, is presumably referring to civil litigation.

In criminal cases, where the defendants have a choice, most who contest the charges elect trial before a Crown Court judge who wears a wig, rather than before magistrates who do not.

Perhaps the lesson is that litigants are more concerned about the perceived quality of justice in the courts than in fashionable ideas about dressing to be in touch with the world.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MIER,
Gray's Inn Chambers,
Gray's Inn, WC1R 5JR.
January 12.

From His Honour Anthony Tibber

Sir, I have just retired from the circuit bench. For many years I wore a wig when entering court (that was my concession to convention) but removed it in the early stages of the proceedings and sat for most of the day bareheaded. Some counsel glared and kept their wigs on, others, with a sigh of (I think) relief, took them off.

I know of no power and no authority which can tell a judge that he or she must wear a wig. If those judges who wish to get rid of the wig simply ceased to wear them, most of the remaining judges would probably follow suit.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY TIBBER,
22 Holmwood Gardens, N3 3NS.
January 12.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Drink-drive limit

From Mr Peter McKellican

Sir, Last April I was banned from driving for a year. I had been 50 per cent over the limit — not roaring drunk, but I know the law and it was a "fair cop".

I travel widely in Europe, and I endorse your sentiments (leading article, "Know your limit", January 8) that, far from following any perceived lead from Europe by lowering our limit, we should seek to persuade our European partners to adopt some of our policies. Every time I explain my predicament to European business partners, be they French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian or German, they are astonished by our 12-month minimum ban.

I am sure that the success of drink-driving campaigns in Britain is largely due to the quite correct severity of the punishment. Our hard-hitting television campaigns are non-existent in France. Their limit may well be lower than ours, but if anyone were arrested and found to be slightly over it, they would in reality face a maximum ban of three months.

As a nation, our attitude to drinking and driving has changed for the better. Long may this continue. The attitude in much of mainland Europe has not and, until they follow our lead, will not.

Yours faithfully,
PETER McKELLICAN,
105 Knighton Church Road,
Leicester LE2 3JN.

Something to chew on

From Dr R. J. S. Chinn

Sir, "I bet my ear to a bag of sweets," says Mr Mike Burton, former England prop forward (report, January 19), that the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and the Five Nations Committee will be short-lived.

Given the state of most prop forwards' ears, I know I for one would rather have the bag of sweets.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER CHINN,
86 Beryl Road, W6 8JU.
r.chinn@ic.ac.uk
January 19.

Problem shelved

From Major-General I. S. Harrison, Royal Marines (retd)

Sir, Mr R. J. Slade (letter, January 18) reports finding Worcestershire sauce in a supermarket food section headed "Mexico".

In my post-retirement capacity as Director General of the British Food Export Council, I visited a supermarket in southern Italy, where I found Birds Custard on shelves reserved for petfoods.

Yours sincerely,
I. S. HARRISON,
Manor Cottage, Runcton,
Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6PU.
January 18.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
January 19: Mrs Robert de Pass has succeeded Mrs Christian Adams as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 19: The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Almshouse Association, this morning visited the Great Hospital, Norwich, to mark its 750th anniversary year.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 19: The Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps, today visited The Princess Royal Barracks Gutersloh, Germany.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
January 19: Princess Alexandra, President, this morning visited the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond, Surrey.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, will attend an International Task Force Symposium at 50 Hallam Street, London, W1, at 11.00; and will attend the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's Horseshoe appeal dinner at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, London EC2, at 7.15.

Princess Margaret, as president, Friends of the Elderly, will visit the Old Vicarage, the society's newly rebuilt home in Moulsford, Oxfordshire, and will open the new dementia care unit.

Tom Johnson-Gilbert

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Tom Johnson-Gilbert will be held at noon on Wednesday, February 10, at St Botolph-without-Aldersgate, in St Martins Le Grand, EC1.

Paul McKee

A memorial service will take place for Paul McKee, a former Deputy Chief Executive of ITN and Deputy Managing Director of Yorkshire Television, at noon on Tuesday, February 23, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4. Those wishing to attend should contact Pauline Heard on 0171 430 4750.

Bromley High School GDST

The Spring Term began on Wednesday, January 6, with newly elected Head Girls Joanne Blumire and Meredith Hemphill. The 11+ Scholarship and Entrance Examinations were held on Tuesday, January 19, and Sixth Form entrants will be interviewed on Tuesday, January 26. An Evening of Dance will be presented on February 11 and 12 and Fauré's *Requiem* will be performed on Tuesday, March 16, at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The following girls were awarded Scholarships, tenable from September 1998: 11+ Entrance Scholarship and Music Scholarship: Kasha Sikorski. 11+ Entrance Scholarship and Medlock Scholarship: Sophie Sellick. 11+ Entrance Scholarships: Priya Patel, Victoria Harrison. Fern Bank Awards: Rebecca Clarke, Louise Martin, Francesca Payne, Rebecca Powell.

Legal appointment

Mr John Richard Beaumont, a barrister, has been appointed Regional Chairman of Employment Tribunals (England and Wales) for the Manchester region from January 18.

Retirement

Judge Monique Viner, QC, has retired from the South Eastern Circuit Bench.

Birthdays today

Dr Buzz Aldrin, former astronaut, 69; Mr Aubrey Bailey, conservation architect, 87; Mr Tom Baker, actor, 63; Lord Justice Chadwick, 58; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cousins, 57; Mr Derek Dougan, former football manager and player, 61; the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, former Provost of Southwark Cathedral, 70; Lord Ewing of Kirkford, 68; Sir David Fell, chairman, Northern Bank, 56; the Hon Sir Henry Fisher, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 81; Miss Liza Goddard, actress, 49; Lord Hanson, 77; the Marquess of Headfort, 67; Major Dick Hern, former racehorse trainer, 78; Mr J.K. Ind, former Headmaster, Dover College, 64; Air Vice-Marshal the Ven B.H. Lucas, former Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF, 59; Mr David Lynch, film producer, 53; Commandant Vonla McBride, former director, WRNS, 78; Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, cricket commentator, 54; Mr Max Morrison, Governor, Parkhurst prison, 55; Dr Jessica Rawson, FBA, Warden, Merton College, Oxford, 56; Mr Natan Sharansky, Israel's Minister for Trade and Industry, 51; Professor N.C. Wickramasinghe, astronomer, 60; Mr John Witherow, Editor, *The Sunday Times*, 47.

Service luncheon

International Military Music Society
Lieutenant A.D. Henderson, Director of Music of the Band of HM Royal Marines Commando Training Centre, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Royal Marines Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, Devon, for members of the United Kingdom branch of the International Military Music Society. Afterwards Mr John Amblet, chairman of the society, presented commemorative plaques to the Royal Marines Band.

TRICIA JOHNSON



Judges carefully examining exhibits at the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show yesterday

Brilliant colours beat winter's chill

BY ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

IN THE middle of this wild wet winter when gardening is mainly out of the question, the Royal Horticultural Society's Flower Show is an uplifting experience with the first flowers of the year — snowdrops, hellebores, hardy cyclamen and winter aconites — creating sheets of brilliant colour.

A major display of hellebores, mainly their own Ashwood Garden Hybrids, has been staged by Ashwood Nurseries, of Kingswinford, West Midlands. Its hellebore expert, Kevin Belcher, pointed out its newest hybrids: double flowered, with colours ranging from almost black to cream and pale yellow; anemone-centred in a fine selection of colours; and flowers with very dark centres. This gold medal display also features a new hellebore from America, *Helleborus Argutifolius* "Pacific Frost", whose leaves are finely marbled with cream. Not one of the best looking variegated plants available, it nevertheless has novelty value.

The collection of hippeastrums being assembled by Miss Veronica Read, of South Harrow, Middlesex, has recently been given National Collection status. Part of the collection of these tender bulbs can be seen at the show which opened in Westminster yesterday. Two new hybrids are being shown for the first time: *Hippeastrum* "Lima" with spidery flowers in pale green, boldly streaked with dark red, bred in the US, and *H.* "Fairytale" from The Netherlands, whose cream flowers are boldly striped with rich orange. Hippeastrums make ideal house plants, being quick and easy to grow, and indeed Miss Read's collection of some 300 plants is grown in her flat.

The tapestry-like exhibit of conifers — a rich assemblage of colours, textures and shapes — from Lincluden Nursery, of Bisley Green, Surrey, has been awarded a gold medal.

A unique exhibit of paintings from members of the Chelsea Physic Garden Florilegium Society, of London, has also received a gold medal. It comprises water-colour paintings of plants in the Chelsea Physic Garden associated with Philip Miller (1691-1771). Miller was appointed Gardener to the Physic Garden in 1722 and over the next 40 years developed it into one of the finest botanical gardens in the world. The Florilegium Society was formed in 1995 to illustrate the garden's flora. Its 54 members donate paintings annually to the archives.

Other artists awarded gold medals are Francesca Anderson, of Brooklyn, New (pen and ink drawings of Brassicas); Evelyn Binns, Botanical Water Colours, of Clothall, Hertfordshire (watercolour paintings of heritage vegetables); Brigitte Daniel, of North Leigh, Oxfordshire (watercolour paintings of the Solanaceae family); and Regine Hagedorn, of Villes, France (aquarelle paintings of rosehips).

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Dinner

Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders
Mr Simon Orlik, Master of the Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders, presided at a dinner held last night at Painters' Hall. Mr Alastair Ross Goobey was the principal guest and speaker. Assistant John Alexander also spoke. Among others present were:

Mr Tommy Cookson, Headmaster of Sevenoaks School, accompanied by Edward Blanchard-Wrigglesworth, one of the company's scholars, the Superintendent of the Corporation of London's Parks and Gardens and the Masters and Clerks of the Distillers', Fan Makers', Furniture Makers', Launderers' and Actuaries Companies.

Memorial service

Sir David Woodbine Parish
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir David Woodbine Parish, former Chairman of the City and Guilds of London Institute, was held yesterday at St Olave's, Hart Street, London EC3.

The Rev John Cowling, Rector of St Olave's and Chaplain of the Clothworkers' Company, officiated.

Mr Alastair Leslie, Master of the Clothworkers' Company, read the lesson and Lord Denman gave an address. Among others present were:

Miss Vanessa Woodbine Parish (daughter), Mr and Mrs David Lowcock (son-in-law and daughter), Mr Jonathan Bennie and Miss Fiona Bennie (grandchildren), Mrs Christopher Parish, Mr Matthew Parish, Mr Anthony Parish, Lady Paget, Miss Sheila Parish, the Hon Mrs Michael Woodbine Parish, Mr Robin Woodbine Parish, Mr and Mrs Charles Houston, Mr and Mrs Errol Mews, Mr Tobias Mews, Mr David Paget, Mr Michael Kenyon, Mr Martin Kenyon, Miss Daisy Parish, Miss Zoe Parish.

Viscount and Viscountess Slim, Baroness Platt of Writtle, Sir John Hall, Sir Peter and Lady Gadsden, the Rev Paul and Mrs Benfield, Miss M Gibbs, Mr Bryan Sweeney, Miss A Stenfert Kroese, Major-General J S Lee, Mr Morton Neal, Mr J A Barnes, Ms Juliet Wrightson.

The Clerk and Members of the Court of the Clothworkers' Company, Dr Nicholas Carey (director general, City and Guilds of London Institute) with Mr Tim Statham (secretary) and other past and present members of the Institute; Mr Peter Lumsden (St Thomas' Hospital) with past and present members of staff; Mr Peter Heatey (MGM Assurance), Mr Martyn Gower (Lawrence Graham), Air Commodore I H Forster (NEBS Management), Ms Patricia Mowbray (Florence Nightingale Museum Trust), Mr G C Robin Booth (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and many other friends and former colleagues.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.T.G. Allen and Miss K.S.E. Fiddes Payne
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr Richard Allen and the late Mrs Allen, of Bramfield, Suffolk, and Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Fiddes Payne, of Warmington, Warwickshire.

Mr Z. Bobolakis and Miss A-M. Bainbridge
The engagement is announced between Zacharias, son of Mr and Mrs Sophocles Bobolakis, of Chania, Crete, and Anne-Marie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Bainbridge, of Ealing, London.

Mr B.A. Foster and Miss M.J. Rayner
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Foster, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Melissa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lew Rayner, of Adelaide, South Australia.

Mr M.J. Harford and Miss L.R. Langford
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Sir Timothy and Lady Harford, of Evesham, Worcestershire, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Langford, of Tadworth, Surrey.

Mr J.T. Hobson and Miss K. Tanaka
The engagement is announced between Jake, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tim Hobson, of Halstock, Dorset, and Keiko, younger daughter of the late Mr Kanichi Tanaka and of Mrs Tanaka, of Osaka, Japan.

Mr J.N. Ker and Miss I.B. Hunt
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of the late Mr K.R. Welbore-Ker and of Mrs Welbore-Ker, of London, and Isobel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hunt, of London.

Mr D.W.J. O'Dea and Miss M.L. Pacht
The engagement is announced between Darrell, younger son of Colonel M.J.M. O'Dea, OBE, and Mrs O'Dea, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Marianne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.G. Pacht, of Brussels, Belgium.

Mr M.A. Stevenson and Miss J.A. Simpson
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr Ronald Stevenson and Mrs Jean Stevenson, both of Inverness, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Simpson, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.G. Britton and Miss F.S. Kerr
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Julian Britton, of Oxford, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Kerr, of Dalston, Carlisle.

Mr B. Nepp and Miss S. Pokrantz
The engagement is announced between Bruce, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Nepp, of California, USA, and Sygun, only daughter of Mrs Rowena Pokrantz and Mr Robert Dunn, of Tenterden, Kent.

Mr J.M.F.L. Penfold and Miss N.J. Magee
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs P-J.B.L. Penfold, of Craigend House, Stirling, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Magee, of Marlow.

Mr H.J. van Steenis and Miss H.C. Cavendish
The engagement is announced between Huw, son of Dr and Mrs Dick van Steenis, of Pembrokeshire, and Camilla, daughter of Richard Cavendish, of Kensington, and Mavis Cavendish, of Fulham.

Mr A.I. Woods and Miss M.J. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Ant, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Woods, of Rosedale Intake, Danby, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Thompson, of Bodgers Wood, Chinnor.

Marriages

Mr C.P. Jenkins and Miss A.I. Lowe
The marriage took place on January 5, in Manhattan, New York, between Craig, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Jenkins, of West Sussex, and Amanda, eldest daughter of Mrs C.A. Greenman, of Bristol.

Mr R.D.J. McFarlane and Miss L.J. Baker
The marriage took place at All Saints' Church, Odiham, on Saturday, January 16, of Mr David McFarlane, younger son of Mr and Mrs Dennis McFarlane, of Boars Hill, Oxford, to Miss Lucinda Baker, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Baker, of Odiham, Hampshire. Canon Michael Bever officiated, assisted by Canon Ray Hubble.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Rosanna; Francesca and Charlie Baker, Harriet Campbell, Sophie Chance, Oliver Charkham, Georgina Davis, Henry Holmes, Charlie Palmer and Edward Stansfield. Mr Andrew McFarlane was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Wolfe Tone, Irish nationalist, Dublin, 1763; André-Marie Ampère, physicist, Lyons, 1775; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, Austria, 1910; Roy Plomley, creator of *Desert Island Discs*, Kingston upon Thames, 1914.

DEATHS: David Garrick, actor-manager, London, 1779; John Howard, philanthropist and penal reformer, Kherson, the Crimea, 1790; Sir John Soane, architect, London, 1837; Jean François Millet, painter, Barbizon, 1875; R.D. Blackmore, novelist, Teddington, Middlesex, 1900; John Ruskin, critic and writer, Coniston, Cumbria, 1900; Johnny Weissmuller, Olympic swimming champion and actor, Florida, 1984.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate on thy work, and talk of thy doings. *Psalm 77. 11-12 (AV).*

BIRTHS

ALISAFAKIS - On January 16th at The Portland Hospital to Anna (Polemis) and Spyros, a son, Michael.

BAINBRIDGE - On 16th January 1999, to Sophie (née Mills) and James, a son, a brother for Isabelle and Edward.

BETTENCOURT - On January 15th at The Portland Hospital to Helene and Bruce, a son, Alexandre, a big brother for Bruce.

BOLTON - On December 27th in Gaborone, Botswana to Janet (née Davis) and Andrew, a son Mark Edward John.

BOYLE - On January 14th at The Portland Hospital to Susan (née Green) and Patrick, a son, Laurence, a brother for Finbar.

CHITTICK - On 18th January 1999 in the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, to Carolyn Fairbairn and Peter Chittick, a son, Thomas David Taylor, a brother for Emily and Anna.

COBB - On 30th December, 1998, at Newcastle upon Tyne, to Jenny (née Harryman) and Andrew, a son, James Stephen.

COHEN - On Thursday January 14th at The Portland Hospital to Caroline and Adam, a son, Oliver Ben.

COWARD - George Alfred, born 14th January at the C & W London, a son to Peter and Victoria.

DAVISON - On January 17th 1999 to Tessa (née Crayson) and Julian, a son, Thomas Gordon.

GHATTAS-KATTAN - On January 12th at The Portland Hospital to Hanan Kattan and Khaled Ghattas, a son, Ethan Sarif.

HOBBY - On January 6th, to Phoebe (née Notley) and Jeffrey, a daughter, Arabella.

KERR - On January 11th at The Portland Hospital to Deborah and Nick, two sons, Oliver Benjamin and Maximilian Edward, brothers for Emilia Isabel.

MAC DONALD - On January 12th at The Portland Hospital to Anna and Niall, a daughter, Phoebe Charlotte Alicia, a sister for Matthew and Hector.

McNEILLY - On January 12th 1999 to Heidi and Robert, a son, William, a brother for James.

RADLEY - On January 14th to Harriet (née Benson) and Lawrence, a daughter, Ella Chloe, a sister for Hannah.

BIRTHS

SLADDEN - On 15th January, a handsome son, Matthew James, born to Mark and Sarah, a pure miracle.

WOOLDRIDGE - On December 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Rhian (née Davies) and Rob, a beautiful daughter, Eleanor Luci Miriam, a sister for Hannah.

ZAND GOODARZI - On January 15th to Noonie (née Coldrey) and Babak, a daughter, Violet.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - Leonora of Lacock, Wiltshire. Widow of the late Arthur. Peacefully after a short illness at the Bath Clinic on 15th January 1999 aged 92 years. No flowers please, donations if desired for The Friends of St Cyriacs Church Restoration Fund. Further enquiries to D J Bewley Funeral Directors 26a Church Street, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6LS Tel: 01225 702521.

ARCHER SMITH - Kathleen Frances Mary (née Franklin) on January 18th 1999 aged 95, widow of the late Henry Archer Smith. Much loved mother of Ann Milward, grandmother of Sarah and Johanna and great-grandmother of Maximilian and Millie Charlotte. Funeral service and burial at The Church of St James the Greater, Oaks-Inn-Charnwood, Leicestershire, on Wednesday 27th January 1999 at 1.00 pm, afterwards at the church hall. Family flowers only, donations to Riding For Disabled c/o Olivers Funeral Services, Ruddington, Notts.

ASKEW - Arthur William Henry on January 12th 1999 in his 90th year peacefully at home. Much beloved husband of the late Eve Askew and loved by neices and nephews, and a devoted loyal friend to all who knew him. Will be sadly missed by us all. Funeral to be on Tuesday 26th January 1999 at Slough Crematorium at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations - Thames Valley Hospice. Enquiries to FG Pymm & Son (Maidenhead) Tel: 01628 623822.

BACON - Yvonne Eugenie Elizabeth much loved Mummia. Died on January 18th 1999 surrounded by many of her adoring family. Funeral to take place Saturday 23rd January, 2.30pm Fyfield Church. Flowers c/o Edward Carter, Abingdon, 01235 528293.

DEATHS

BARLOW - Bryan Irlam. Died peacefully at home in Chichester on 14th January 1999. Beloved father and grandfather who will be sadly missed by all his family. Funeral at St Paul's Chichester, on Thursday 28th January, at 2.15pm. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY.

BOOBYER - Dr. George. Peacefully at Greenways Nursing Home, Burnham-on-Sea on Sunday January 17th aged 96 years. Funeral Service at Weston-super-Mare Crematorium on Monday January 25th at 11.30am. Family flowers only please. Donations to a charity of your choice. A Memorial Meeting will be held at Sidcot Friends Meeting House on Saturday February 27th at 2.30pm.

BREESE - Douglas Norman who passed away at home on 15th January 1999 aged 82 years. A truly loved and much missed husband, dad, granddad and great-granddad. Funeral will take place at 11.40 am on Wednesday 27th January at Kingston Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o F W Paine, 265 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AA.

CAREW - Barbara, peacefully on January 18th aged 90, beloved wife of the late Hon. Peter Carew, much loved mother of Susan and GrannyBar of Louisa, Christopher and Rachel. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Camphill Village Trust, Oaklands Park, Newnham, Glos GL14.

DAVIES - Dr. Michael Ivor, died in Oxford on 18th January 1999. Born London, 22nd June 1919. Dearly beloved husband of Thelma and father of Quentin, Richard and Julian. Grandfather of Jessica, Samuel, Alexander and Nicholas. For forty years a much loved and respected Oxford G.P. Funeral, St Peter's Parish Church, Wolvercote, Oxford, Friday 22nd January at 3.00pm.

DENHOLM - Phyllis Margaret (née East), much loved mother of James, Jeremy and Gay, passed away peacefully Monday 11th January. Funeral, Wednesday 27th January. Family flowers only. Enquiries and donations, if desired, (Macmillan Cancer Relief) to 0181 332 1777.

DOWMAN - Christopher BA, MA (Cantab), MBBS, MRCP, died peacefully on Thursday 14th January 1999 at his home in West Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire. The dearly loved husband of Jan and the beloved dad of Kate, Rebecca, Richard and Henry. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Pinchbeck on Tuesday 26th January at 1.30pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations preferred to the A&E Department, Nobles Hospital, Isle of Man. Enquiries and donations to Clubley Funeral Services, St. Johns Road, Spalding, Lincs, PE11 1JD. Tel:01775 723199.

GIVAN - Suddenly on 16th January 1999 at home in Ashtead, Surrey. James Charles Givan MA LLB CA dearest husband of Agnes for over 60 years. Devoted father and father-in-law of Roger and Helen; beloved and most loving grandpa of Fiona and Isobel. Service of Remembrance at St. Columba's, Pont Street, London on Friday 29th January at 11.30am after which friends would be most welcome at the Capital Hotel, Basil Street.

GOODALL - Donald, on January 15th 1999, aged 69 years. Beloved husband of Mary, dearest father of Martin and Caroline, much loved grandpa of Nicholas, Amy, Victoria, Natasha and Phoebe. Funeral Service at St. Peter's Church, Monks Eleigh, Suffolk on Friday January 29th at 10.15am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Musician's Benevolent Fund c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 10 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich.

GRIFFITHS - Bruce, on January 17th, much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at St. Mary's Church, Whitchurch, Cardiff on Monday 25th January at 3.20 pm. Public memorial service at St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, Saturday 30th January at 11.00 am. No flowers please, donations if desired to Allergy and Lung Research Fund, c/o Dr Brian Davies, Llandough Hospital, Penarth CF64 2XX.

HAMMOND - Graeme James, died suddenly after a short illness on Wednesday 13th January 1999, aged 43 years. Funeral Service at Saint Nicholas Church, Dyke Road, Brighton on Monday 25th January at 1.00pm, followed by private burial. No flowers by request but donations if desired made payable to Peter Walker Trust c/o W.A. Stringer & Son, 12 Kensington Gardens, Brighton, BN1 4AL. Tel: 01273 603806.

HILL - Stanley Rowland. Passed away on January 11th 1999 aged 70 years. Beloved husband of Pam, loving father of Alison and Karen, father-in-law of Laurie and Andrew and grandfather to Sam. Funeral Service to be held at St Johns Church, Walmley at 1.30pm on Wednesday 27th January followed by a cremation Service at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations please to the Stroke Association, c/o Ian Hazel Funerals Ltd, 5 Belwell Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B74 4AA. Stan will always be so dearly loved and deeply missed.

HONEYBOURNE - Travers, Brigadier (Ret'd) O.B.E., A.D.C. On January 12th, in his 88th year, peacefully at the Colina Club Residential Home, Calpe, Spain, after a short illness. Beloved husband of Elizabeth (née Woodsend), much loved father of Juliet, Rosemary, Robert and William, and loving grandfather of their children. Funeral took place in Forna, Spain, on 14th January.

HORSMAN - Peacefully at home after a brief illness on 31st December 1998, Kathleen (Katie) Finlay MBE ARCA sometime Head of the Department of Ceramics at Edinburgh College of Art and a great friend to colleagues and students alike. A private cremation has taken place at her own request. The executors intend to hold an appropriate gathering at a later date which will be intimated in these columns.

HOYLE - Roger Thomas Murray died peacefully on January 18th, at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, aged 55 years, after a short illness. Beloved husband and brother; devoted father and grandfather. Private cremation. Thanksgiving service at St Nicholas' Church, Charlwood on Tuesday 26th January at 3pm. No flowers. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund. All enquiries to Stoneman Funeral Services, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, 01737 763456.

KENCHINGTON - John of Kingcoed, Usk on 15th January 1999. Funeral at Llandenny Church on 25th January at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations to the St. David's Foundation c/o Ted Williams & Sons Funeral Directors, Park Road, Abergavenny.

LAW - Jimmy (BJ) on January 13th peacefully. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Crawley Down Sussex, on Friday January 22nd at 12 noon.

MACVICAR - Christina, died peacefully at home on 15th January 1999, aged 80. Wife of Donald, mother of Robert and David, grandmother of William, Charlie, Christine, Helen and Angus, and greatly loved by all. The Funeral Service will be at St. Stephen's United Reformed Church, De Montfort Street, Leicester; on Wednesday 27th January 1999 at 1.00pm followed by cremation at Gilroes Crematorium, Groby Road, Leicester. Family flowers only, donations to the Cancer Research Campaign c/o Ginns and Gutteridge Funeral Directors of Leicester Tel:0116 2515117

MARNOCH - Marjorie Anderson died in her sleep on 13th January 1999, aged 93, at Delvea House, Queen's Gate Terrace. Much loved by everyone who knew her. No funeral service, at her request.

NASH - Frank William MD, FRCP, peacefully on January 7th 1999, aged 80 years. Former Consultant Paediatrician, Merthyr & Aberdare and Brighton & Lewes Hospital Groups; Associate Physician, Hospital for Sick Children Great Ormond Street. At his request, no Funeral Service. Thanksgiving Service, Westleton Parish Church Suffolk, February 20th, 2.00pm. No flowers. Donations to "The Rocking Horse Appeal", Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, The Basement, 36 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 3JB. For further information contact Mark Nash 0171 580 8255.

OLLERENSHAW - Charles. Suddenly and unexpectedly on January 7th. Loved and adored husband of Margaret, dearest son of Dame Kathleen and the late Dr. Robert Ollerenshaw and beloved brother of the late Florence. An important and much loved member of all his family. Greatly missed by his many friends. Funeral at St. Oswald's Church, Lower Peover on Friday 22nd January at 11.30am followed by cremation at Altrincham at 1.00 pm. Family flowers only. Any donations in Charles' memory to the St. Oswald's Church Roof Appeal may be sent to J.A. Whiston, King Street, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6DW. Tel: 01565 632844.

PARKES - Mathew Donald, on January 18th at the age of 85. Much loved father, grandfather and schoolmaster. Funeral at St John the Baptist, Crowthorne on Friday January 29th at 12.30 pm.

PATON-FREEMAN - Magdala Sophia (née Guintini) on 15th January 1999 at Amersham Hopital aged 88 years young. Funeral Service will be held at St. John the Baptist Church, Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire at 1.00pm on Monday 25th January. All friends welcome. No flowers please, donations if desired to St. John the Baptist Church, Little Marlow, c/o Arnold Funeral Service, 891 London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 9TB, to whom any enquiries can be made on 01494 472572.

POGSON - Joyce North on January 18th, peacefully in hospital in Leeds, aged 83 years, former History Lecturer at The City of Leeds Teacher Training College. Dearly loved daughter of the late Bert and Alice Pogson, who will be greatly missed by all her relatives and friends. Funeral Service on Friday January 22nd. Enquiries to G H Dovener and Son, Funeral Directors, tel 0113 275 1797.

RICHARDSON - Patricia Isobel, greatly loved wife of the late Arthur George Richardson. Devoted mother of Arthur and Edward, died peacefully on 17th January 1999. Funeral Service at St. John Bosco Catholic Church, Woodley on 23rd January at 11.30am followed by private interment. All friends welcome after the service at Sonning Golf Club, flowers or donations for the Macmillan Nurses Wokingham and District Cancer Care Trust or The Duchess of Kent House, may be sent to A.B. Walker & Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DL.

SAXENA - Suren K (Dr). On January 10th, peacefully in Blackheath, London. Beloved husband of Ingallil, devoted father of Rahul, Anna-Karin and Nandini, loving father-in-law of Christine and doting grandfather of Maxime and Maya. Sadly missed and fondly remembered by brothers and sisters, family and friends in India and around the world. Private family funeral on January 20th. Donations to Friends of the Delhi Brotherhood Society, 8 Banbury Road, London, E9 7DU.

SEAGER - John Alan, aged 71 years, on 17th January 1999, peacefully in the Sue Ryder Home, Leckhampton. A much loved father, grandfather and brother. Funeral at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon on Tuesday 26th January, at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court, c/o Funeral Director, R Carter, High Road, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire.

SIMPSON - Peacefully on 14th January at his home at Stone, Staffordshire, Rex Harold, much loved father of Sarah and Rachel. Funeral at Chinley Chapel, Derbyshire.

SMITH - Desmond Evelyn on 17th January, aged 73. Dearly loved husband of Margaret and much loved father of Andrew and the late Stephen. Funeral at Amersham Crematorium on Tuesday 26th January at 4.30 pm. Family flowers only and donations, if desired, to Chiltern View Nursing Home, c/o K Y Green, 29 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1RP.

STEWART - Walter Colonel R.A.M.C., aged 87 years, on January 18th after a short illness, beloved father of Andrew and Rebecca, Grandfather of Eleanor, Claudia, Jerome and Rhiannon. Funeral Service at Burgh Church on Friday January 22nd at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, but donations welcomed for Aylsham Care Trust may be sent c/o Ducker Funeral Services, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk.

UNWIN - Robert William (Bob) died peacefully at home on 14th January 1999. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, East Chapel at 10.45am, Friday 22nd January.

VINCENT "Cherry" (neé Morse), much loved mother, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother, died peacefully at Kingswood Court on 15th January 1999 aged 92. Requiem Mass at The Church of St John the Baptist, at Tadworth on Monday 25th January, at 9.00am followed by burial at St Peters Church, Walton-on-the-Hill. Family flowers only but donations may be made to The Alzheimers Disease Society c/o WA Truelove & Son Ltd, 14-18 Church Rd, Epsom, Surrey.

WARDROP - Clement George, ISO, ERD, MIEE, late Col. Royal Signals. Died peacefully aged 88 years at Cynthia Spencer Hospice, Northampton, on Friday morning 15th January 1999. Beloved husband of Peggy, father of Susan and Carolyn and devoted grandfather of Andrew, Allan, Philippa and Malcolm. Funeral to be held on Tuesday 26th January, 1.45pm at Ss Peter and Paul, Park Avenue South, Abingdon, Northampton, to be followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations in Clem's memory to Cynthia Spencer Hospice, c/o B Hollowell & Son, 148 Beech Avenue, Northampton NN3 2JN.

WOOD - Eva 17th July 1900 - 16th January 1999, widow of Herbert Francis Wood and much loved mother of Eric and Mary Wood.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BIGLAND - Richard, we love you. Kate, Daniel, Matt.

HOLT - Eric, January 20th 1992. Lovingly remembered and missed.

JONES - Michael D.L. Remembering with all our love our dearest son, brother and friend. Mother, Father, Huw, John.

هكذا من الأصل

JERZY GROTOWSKI


Grotowski: envisaged a "poor" theatre, free of trappings

Jerzy Grotowski, Polish theatre director, died of leukaemia in *Pontedera, Tuscany, on January 14* aged 65. He was born in Rzeszow on August 11, 1933.

Through his revolutionary Teatr Laboratorium, which he founded in Opole at the end of the 1950s and later moved to Wroclaw, Jerzy Grotowski sought, in a way more radical than any theorist since Stanislavsky, to make the role of the actor *paramount* in the theatre. The concept and work (he disapproved of the notion of "production") of the laboratory was essentially a revolt against what he saw as the decadent luxury of contemporary (especially contemporary Western) theatre, with its all-powerful directors, its lavish settings and its complicated — and needlessly expensive — lighting plots.

To Grotowski the psychological — indeed psychophysical — dimension of a performance was all-important. He envisaged a "poor" theatre, emancipated from all theatrical machinery and relying on the brain of the actor — though not necessarily his voice. Thus, in many a Grotowski staging mime, gestures and other body movements from the actors became more important than words. This tended to change the whole relationship between actors and their audience who — and especially when *Grotowsi productions were first seen* in an unsuspecting Britain — felt themselves being drawn, with seemingly irresistible force, into what was happening on the stage area.

The effects — and they were undeniably powerful — of such manipulation of the *emotions of the* audience tended, as time went on, to induce a certain arrogance in Grotowski. He came to feel that he had, at a stroke, *made the standard classics of* European drama irrelevant. Eventually he retreated into himself, giving up production for pure theory and moving away from the Poland which had nurtured him to settle first in France and America, where he had a ready audience for his increasingly tiresome sermons, and then finally in Italy, where he cloaked himself in a guru-like persona.

Yet he and his laboratory made an ineradicable impression on the art (and as he would have seen it, the science) of acting. He made it visceral as well as emotional. Sometimes an audience *might* literally flinch at the psychological and physical violence of the events being enacted only feet away *from them. Such a seasoned* experimental director as Peter Brook acknowledged Grotowski's profound *influence on his work.*

Born in the small town of Rzeszow, Jerzy Grotowski was educated at the *Higher State School* of Drama in Cracow, where he graduated as an actor in 1955. He then went to study at the Moscow State Institute of Theatre Arts, after which he returned to Poland to become director of a small theatre at Opole, where from *1959 he* was putting into practice his theories of acting.

It was there that he established his experimental laboratory for theatre *research*, which he *moved to* Wroclaw in 1965. This soon developed an international reputation for its revolutionary stagings. *Akropolis* (1962), a version of Stanislaw Wyspianski's 19th-century Polish classic totally reworked by Grotowski, put classical myth to the test of modern experience, by casting the action in a Nazi death camp. As such it asked how the classical ideal of human dignity can withstand the 20th century's experience of man's capacity to degrade others — and by implication himself. When it was first seen in Britain, at the Edinburgh Festival of 1968, *Akropolis* was universally acknowledged to possess an awesome beauty, which held its audience in silent *thrall in spite of the shocking nature* of its visual images and the ghastly moral dilemmas posed by its dram*atic situations.*

Under Grotowski's direction, *Akropolis* did not stand still, but went through several more versions between 1962 and 1975. Other notable productions from Grotowski's Wroclaw laboratory in the 1960s were *El Principe constante*, a reworking by Slowacki of Calderón's play, slicing away most of the plot, about a captured Portuguese Prince who refuses to be ransomed by the Moors, to leave a characteristically Grotowskian concentration on the nature of martyrdom.

Apocalypsis cum figuris used an eclectic assemblage of texts drawn from such sources as the Bible, Dostoyevsky and Simone Weil. Marlowe's *The Tragicall History of Dr Faustus* also came in for the Grotowski treatment, a development from ideas he had already explored in a treatment of Goethe's *Faust*.

In Poland under a Communist regime to which Socialist Realism was the cultural norm (and Catholicism was scarcely more tolerant of radical innovation), Grotowski was at first seen as the leader of some refractory heretical sect. Yet there was no question of proscription by the authorities. When the Teatr Laboratorium moved from Opole to Wroclaw in 1965 the spacious quarters of the old *Rathaus* (before the *frontier adjustments of 1945* Wroclaw had been Breslau, the capital of German Silesia) were placed at its disposal.

Grotowski's group went outside Poland for the first time in 1966 to *tour the* Scandinavian countries where it made an impact that had the directors of the rest of Western Europe agog to see its products. Over *the next few years, with visits to the* Théâtre des Nations in Paris, to Holland, Belgium, Italy, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Iran and the Lebanon, besides Britain, its reputation increased and the name of Grotowski became synonymous with an entirely *new method of translating dramatic* meaning into stage reality.

He set out his theories in his book *Towards a Poor Theatre*, published in English in 1968, with a foreword by Peter Brook. Although Grotowski remained professionally attached to Wroclaw he worked abroad, notably with the Royal Shakespeare Company and at the French Higher Academy of Dramatic Arts at Aix-en-Provence. The Teatr Laboratorium was finally wound up in 1983, with Grotowski going to live at first in France, though he also had long periods in America, spent largely at the *University of California at Irvine.* More recently he had settled in Italy at Pontedera, near Pisa, where he *was made an honorary citizen.*

SIR FRANCIS McLEAN

Sir Francis McLean, CBE, Director of Engineering *at the BBC, 1963-68,* died on December 19 aged 94. He was born on November 6, 1904.

FRANCIS McLEAN was at the cutting edge of broadcasting technology throughout a career which spanned three decades at the BBC. The expansion of its overseas services, the introduction of FM radio and the development of colour television were among *the numerous advances on* which he worked.

As deputy director of engineering *and then director* he was deeply involved in the debate over which colour system to adopt — eventually opting for the German PAL solution — as opposed to France's SECAM or the American NTSC.

He then oversaw the BBC's development of a converter, which enabled the exchange of colour programmes, despite the different systems in various countries. It proved its worth in 1968 — the year in which McLean retired — when colour pictures from the *Olympic Games* in Mexico were beamed into homes across the world.

Born Francis Charles McLean in Birmingham, he took *a first in electrical* engineering at Birmingham University before going to work in private industry. "Mac" as his close colleagues knew him, designed high-power radio transmitters for Western Electric in *this country before moving* in 1928 to work for Standard Telephones and Cables in Paris. From there he travelled extensively throughout Europe, designing high-power radio and telephone equipment *for use not only in France but* in such countries as Switzerland, Italy, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

After joining the BBC in 1937, he headed the corporation's transmitter design team. Then, when the Second World War broke out, he was involved in producing mobile *equipment for war* correspondents as well as in the urgent expansion of its monitoring stations and short-wave services.

In 1943, however, he was seconded to the Psychological *Warfare Division of Supreme* Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces as chief engineer. *He wore the uniform of* a British army officer and emerged as the best pistol shot in his detachment during training.


McLean: involved in the debate on a colour system for TV

He was involved in the preparations for D-Day, crossing the Channel in the sum*mer of 1944 and in August* was the first BBC man to enter Paris — even before its war correspondents. He restarted French radio transmitters in the wake of the retreating Germans and went on to resurrect Radio Luxembourg after the Duchy had been liberated by the Americans. He had to replace all the valves in the Luxembourg transmitter — the Germans having shot the old ones to pieces.

He then accomplished a still bigger task. American agents *wanted to use the station* to beam "black" propaganda at the Germans, while he and his *professional colleagues feared* this might ruin the credibility of their own straightforward news bulletins. McLean cunningly managed to satisfy both sides, by arranging for different wavelengths to be *used*, the *propaganda* going out at night and the straight news by day. Meanwhile, he moved on to perform *similar* rescue missions at German radio centres during the closing stages of the war. He was appointed MBE for his war work in 1945.

On his return to the BBC, he *was posted to Singapore, then* as an adviser to the new Radio Pakistan. He also represented the *BBC* at an *increasing* number of international conferences on developments in broadcasting technology, and lectured in this country and abroad.

He became deputy chief *engineer in 1952, deputy direc*tor of engineering in 1960 and finally the director in 1963. He had been *advanced* to CBE in 1953 and was knighted in 1967 for services to broadcasting.

After retiring from the BBC McLean was made technical director of a company developing video technology. He also *became a director* and adviser to Oxley Developments, making specialised *electronic components.* He chaired the British Standards Institution Telecommunications *Industry Standards* Committee between 1960 and 1977 and in 1974 headed a Royal Commission on FM broadcasting in Australia.

He settled in Newbury, Berkshire, where he was elected *president* of the Newbury District Field Club. He also invested in a small flock of *sheep*, partly as a hobby and partly as a way of keeping the grass down.

Subordinates found McLean an exacting taskmaster who knew how he wanted *things done. But he listened to* those who disagreed with him and was known for his fairness and loyalty to old colleagues. His strengths included a natural flair for picking up languages, discovered during his early years on the Continent. He spoke "conference level" French and German, had a working knowledge of Italian, Hungarian and Czech and could get by in Spanish and Russian.

He married his wife Dorothy in 1930. She survives him, *together with* a son and daughter.

SIR THOMAS SCRIVENOR

Sir Thomas Scrivenor, CMG, Colonial Office official, died on *December 20 aged 90.* He was born on August 28, 1908.

IN A world in which Great Britain still exercised dominion over palm and pine, Tom Scrivenor joined the Colonial Service straight from Oxford in 1930. His career was spent *in the Middle East and Africa*, and covered a period of turbulent change in these areas. In *1953 he was appointed Deputy* High Commissioner for the three South African Protectorates of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. In Bechuanaland (now Botswana) he was able to secure the *return of Seretse Khama* and his wife Ruth.

The Khamas were the tradi*tional chiefs of the largest* tribe in Bechuanaland. While a student in Britain, in 1948, Seretse had married an English girl, Ruth Williams. His uncle, Tshekedi, who was acting as regent, and many *others* of the chiefs, objected. Even the British Labour Government had reservations *about a mixed marriage*, which they felt might incense opinion in South Africa and neighbouring *Rhodesia*. Seretse remained in exile.

By 1956 majority opinion in the tribal area had changed and *favoured* a *return* by Seretse, mainly because people were afraid that Tshekedi, *who was unpopular, might* become the permanent chief. Scrivenor was successful in negotiating *the return of* Seretse (through Southern Rhodesia) on the condition that he would not *immediately* become chief. He also undertook delicate negotiations with the South African Government to ensure that they would respect the territorial integrity of Bechuanaland.

At the peak of the crisis Tom Scrivenor was credited with the widely circulated lines: "If *Seretse was bit by a Tetse /* Would Tshekedi marry the lady?" He always denied au*thorship. Seretse Khama* returned with his wife, and in due course became the Para*mount Chief, heading the first* independent administration of Bechuanaland.

Thomas Vaisey Scrivenor was born in Batu Gajah, Malaya, where his father, John Brooke Scrivenor, was working as a geologist conducting a geological survey of the country. He was educated at King's School, Canterbury, and went up to Oriel College, Oxford, with a history scholar*ship. He rowed and played* rugby for his college, was a member of Vincents, and met his future wife, Mary Elizabeth Neatby.


Scrivenor's skill steered three territories to independence

In 1934 Scrivenor became an assistant district officer in Tanganyika, and in the same year married Elizabeth in Dar es Salaam. For three years *they lived the semi-nomadic* life of a district officer, spending many months on tour, living under canvas. In *1937* he was transferred to Palestine, where he served in Haifa and then Jaffa. In 1943 he was *appointed Assistant* Lieutenant-Governor in Malta and served there for the remainder *of the war.*

He returned to Palestine in 1946 and was there until the *end of the Mandate. In 1948* he was sent to Nigeria as Civil Service Commissioner to undertake *the* reorganisation of the Nigerian Civil Service. He took to inviting young Nigerians working in the Civil Service to Sunday evening suppers, getting to know many of Nigeria's future high-flyers.

In 1953 Scrivenor became Deputy High Commissioner *for the three South African* territories, Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland. The *long-term future of these terri*tories had always been incorporation into the Union of *South Africa, but the Nation*alist Government's policy of apartheid made that increasingly *unlikely. Tom Scrivenor* therefore inherited three territories in a state of limbo, with no motive power of their own, and *no* apparent direction in which to go.

But *Scrivenor* was a very experienced and expert colonial administrator, and he saw that separate inde*pendence* was an achievable goal. When he was joined in 1959 by John Redcliffe-Maud as Ambassador to South Africa, they made a formidable team. In a few short years they steered the territories through a transformation, both economically and in their forms of government.

The "troika" of territories was quite unlike any other British colonial problem, and *there were few parallel* experiences to draw on. By the time independence was achieved in 1963, each had a sound econ*omy and government.* They have remained among the most stable and prosperous *countries of post-independ*ence Africa.

Tom Scrivenor retired from *the Colonial Service in 1961* and became secretary and chief executive of the Commonwealth *Agricultural Bureau* — described by the Duke of Edinburgh as "probably the best of the functioning organisations of the British Commonwealth".

He threw himself into his *new career* with *enthusiasm* and energy. He learnt quickly and effectively at a time when *revolutionary* changes were taking place in the methodology of information transfer. *He steered through the mecha*nisation of information and data services, and he played a *major role in creating the* Food Information Service. He also had a part in creating AGRIS, *the world agricultural* information service.

Tom Scrivenor retired to *Minster Lovell in Oxfordshire* in 1972, where he was active locally. He was a committed *Christian and read widely.* His hobbies were polo, bridge, choral singing and fly-fishing.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and by his son and three daughters.

ON THIS DAY

January 20, 1905

Market gardeners from Evesham in Worcestershire, who had visited Paris, came back with the impression that early vegetables could be grown according to the French method "in the favoured district of Evesham" but it would be vitally necessary to get hold of enough manure at a low price.

MARKET GARDENERS IN PARIS

A visit which a party of some 30 market gardeners and dealers from the Evesham *district of Worcestershire has just paid to the* environs of Paris is a noteworthy event in the history of British horticulture. It has been generally assumed *that there was no chance* for British producers to compete with those of France in the supply of early lettuces, carrots, *radishes, etc, for English markets*; and the tendency in England has been for growers to content themselves with making reflections *against the railways in respect to the large* quantities of foreign produce carried by them — mainly at a time when no English-grown supplies of that kind are available.

The facts ascertained were not only interesting but most encouraging. An inspection of a number of market gardens just outside the fortifications on the south-east of Paris (where such gardens extend for a total distance of eight miles) has shown that the success of the French growers is due less to *any climatic advantage* than to a very practical system of cultivation under glass on what are, in effect, forcing beds, to which, *however no artificial heat is applied. At first* sight a Paris market garden presents the appearance of from one and a half to two or more acres of land almost covered by ranges of glass frames standing about 1ft above the soil, while over each is a straw mat which can readily be rolled up during the day, when the temperature *allows*. These frames are *supple*mented by hundreds of bell-shaped glasses, known as *cloches*. Under these the lettuces are grown. *Frames and cloches alike stand on* beds made up of rotten horsemanure, with a certain proportion of fresh manure, especially *as a foundation. fresh manure* being at the same time piled up alongside the frames and around the *cloches* to protect them from frost. Some of the gardens seem to consist almost *entirely of this rotten manure. In the case of* lettuces there are three successive sowings beginning in August, the lettuces being ready *for the market in six weeks. The supplies* continue until April. The varieties grown are the "cabbage" and "cos", one of the latter and three or four of the *former* being planted under each *cloche*, with larger quantities in the frames. The early carrots and turnips are grown under like conditions and there is every reason to believe that the business is a most lucrative one.

The opinion formed by the visitors was that, while not every part of England would allow of the growing of early vegetables according to the French method, yet there were no climatic conditions which would *prevent the adopting of that method in the* favoured district of Evesham. Evesham, with its warm, moist climate and encircling hills, was, in fact, *regarded as still better adapted to* such an enterprise than the exposed environs of Paris. The only difficulty lay in the procurement of enough manure at a sufficiently low price, at Evesham. Assuming, however, that this *difficulty* could be surmounted, the general conclusion was that early salad lettuce for the English markets could very well *be grown with equal success and economy in* the Vale of Evesham.

SAS may stage Kosovo rescue

■ A substantial force of SAS troops is on alert to mount a "high risk" rescue operation in Kosovo if any international monitors in the Yugoslav province are taken hostage. The decision to enlist the SAS for hostage-rescue came after Brigadier-General Marcel Valentin, the French commander of Nato's extraction force based in Macedonia, said his 2,300 soldiers would be incapable of carrying out such an operation............Pages 1, 13

Aitken admits perjury

■ Jonathan Aitken, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, faced the threat of a lengthy prison sentence after admitting at the Central Criminal Court charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice. He confessed to drawing up a false witness statement which he persuaded his teenage daughter to sign to support his lies during a libel action............Pages 1, 4

Secret weapon

Ally McBeal has been dubbed President Clinton's secret weapon: an attractive, high-powered lawyer............Page 1

People's peers

The public is to be given the power to nominate "people's peers" under proposals to scrap the rights of hereditary peers to sit in the House of Lords............Page 1

Pinochet case

The law lords confirmed that they are to seek clarification from Robin Cook over the date on which General Pinochet was recognised as head of state, in what could be a key piece of evidence......Page 2

Chat show shock

A woman who watched the Richard and Judy chat show recognised the guest as a removal man who had driven off with £60,000 worth of her possessions, a court was told............Page 3

Prisoner freed

A man serving 14 years in prison for armed robbery was freed by the Court of Appeal as a result of criminal charges brought against Scotland Yard detectives....Page 5

New Conservatives

William Hague promised to remould the Conservatives as a modern alternative to new Labour that would avoid harking back to past glories............Page 6

Film favourites

Lord Attenborough is asking everyone in Britain to pick their three favourite films. His own are *The Gold Rush*, *On The Waterfront* and *Schindler's List*............Page 7

Fashion statement

City analysts were among guests at a fashion show as Marks & Spencer sought to revive its fortunes with a spring and summer collection............Page 9

Gallant gelding

A horse that was executed by a Nazi firing squad in 1940 after it kicked a German soldier to death has won recognition as an equine hero of the Resistance. ....Page 10

Freetown horror

With their homes burned, their women abducted as sex slaves and their lives shattered, starving residents of Freetown emerged to scavenge for food............Page 12

Hussein returns

Jordan gave way to euphoria yesterday as King Hussein returned home from a six-month cancer cure to resume control of the desert kingdom he has ruled for 47 years............Page 14

Clinton alarm

President Clinton made proposals to defend the United States from computer terrorists and to help Russia to dismantling its nuclear arsenal............Page 15

Sweet-smelling 'new lads'

British men are learning to love the bathroom and are reaching for the moisturiser as never before, a survey of consumer trends shows. Despite his scruffy image, the lager-swilling, *Loaded*-reading "new lad" is largely responsible for the trend. Sales of male moisturisers, exfoliants and other products have doubled since 1988 and topped £800 million last year...Page 8



MARK MITCHELL/REUTERS

Michelle Fraser of Shannon, New Zealand, with Big Red, one of the world's biggest steers who weighs 2½ tons and stands almost 6ft tall

European protest: British Aerospace was yesterday hit by accusations that its £7 billion merger with the Marconi has damaged hopes of greater industrial co-operation within Europe............Page 23

Excitement: At Home, the internet service provider, has agreed to buy Excite, the internet search company linked to BT, for $6.7 billion, in the biggest online merger ......Page 23

Prices rise: Inflation unexpectedly climbed above target in December, raising fears that the Bank of England may delay further interest rate cuts............Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 96.30 to 6027.6. The pound rose 0.68 cents to $1.6583 and 23p against the euro to 69.99p. The sterling index rose to 99.9 from 99.7............Page 26

Rugby union: Only a day after being expelled from the Five Nations championship in a dispute over television income, England were welcomed back to the fold by the other four............Page 44

Tennis: Jim Courier, the former world No 1, voiced suspicions that blood-doping was prevalent among Europe's elite players............Page 44

Motor rallying: Colin McRae lies in fourth place after ten stages in the Monte Carlo Rally after an exceptional drive in the new - and untried - Ford Focus............Page 42

Football: West Ham United are hoping to use some of the proceeds from the sale of John Hartson to Wimbledon in order to lure Robert Lee, of Newcastle United, down to Upton Park............Page 40

Beauty and beast: The director Anand Tucker explains why portraying the life of Jacqueline du Pré in the film *Hilary and Jackie* was so painful............Page 33

Sour notes: The latest fly-on-the-wall TV documentary turns its gloomy light on the players of a beleaguered orchestra, as Richard Morrison discovers............Page 33

Mood of the age: As a new show of his work opens in London, the artist Julian Schnabel, once branded a brash American brat, reveals his enthusiasm for his art............Page 34

Mime time: At the International Mime Festival, literary figures provide the inspiration for three shows, while in *Once* Derevo plunge chaotically into clowning around............Page 35

Ancient remedies: Mexico's flora could be nature's storehouse for cures for many diseases. The ancient culture of the Mayans is also providing promising material for scientists............Page 16

TV hero: Nick Ross, the presenter of BBC's *Crimewatch*, is a have-a-go hero............Page 17

Born again: "I'm not sure I can sit through another bloody birthing class." The New York life of Joanna Coles............Page 17

Celebrating skills: The National Training Awards are a celebration of the best teaching available in industry............Pages 30, 31

Landlord aid: Letting a property will soon be less complicated, thanks to a new scheme....Page 37

If the fear of another Balkan war accounts for the paralysis that seems to have overcome both Nato and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, their fears will be realised even sooner if Serbia is not checked. With the blood of Croats and Bosnian Muslims already on his hands, Mr Milosevic is determined to force another military solution — ethnic cleansing, in other words — on Kosovo

— The Straits Times

Preview: Behind the scenes at Billingsgate Fish Market (- BBC1, 10.15pm) **Review:** The oddballs of Bletchley Park who cracked the Enigma code............Pages 42, 42

Hague's identity

Britain may not suffer from an identity crisis but the condition of the Conservative Party is far less certain. It continues to be seen by a stark majority of voters as representing the last, discredited administration............Page 19

The King returns

As Jordan celebrates the return of King Hussein, destabilising rumours of dynastic struggle are already afoot. Any changes could unleash corrosive ambitions that have so far been held in check in the extended Royal Family............Page 19

Farming fashions

Even the most traditional British farmers are looking towards new initiatives as they struggle to save their businesses from bankruptcy. But diversification is not an instant panacea............Page 19

SIMON JENKINS

Policy is dumbed down to a bomb for a bomb and a corpse for a corpse. Dictators who sneer aT Mr Cook's heat-seeking adjectives must feel the blast of his heat-seeking bombs............Page 18

THOMAS STRATHCLYDE

Change in Parliament should be effected only after careful cross-party discussion ane full public consultation. Instead, in a typical display of arrogance, the Government will plunge on with scarcely a week's "consultation"............Page 18

ALAN COREN

I have to tell you (for it is my curse to do so) that in AD97,999 it will be possible to dig for winkles on Cricklewood beach............Page 18

Jerzy Grotowski, theatre director; **Sir Francis McLean**, Director of Engineering at the BBC; **Sir Thomas Scrivenor**, colonial official.Page 21

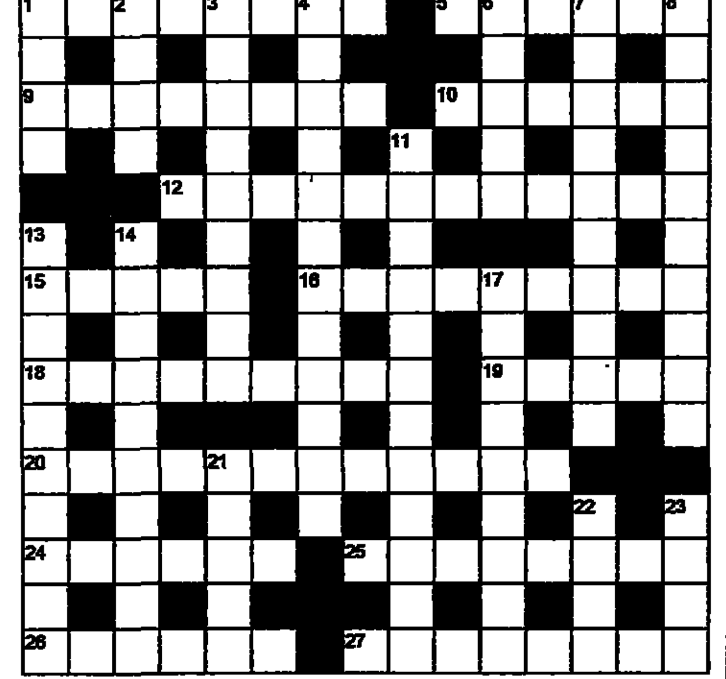
Secure training centres; Hume and Carey; organ donors; house owners' rights; Kosovo; drink-drive limit; millennium bug............Page 19

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
James Christopher reviews *Practical Magic*, with Sandra Bullock (left) and Nicole Kidman

■ **BOOKS**
R.W. Johnson on de Klerk and Mandela; Peter Ackroyd on the poets' disease

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,005



ACROSS
1 A derelict wore drab clothes (8).
5 Imaginary character in potboiler was gripping (6).
9 Want evidence cut short in terrifying case (8).
10 Capital referred to as the big smoke? (6).
12 Where there's a call for whisky etc. in US immediately (2,5,5).
15 First offender's about to appear before magistrate (5).
16 Preparing to play King Lear – as he might be (9).
18 Overcoat mum's put on boy in the morning (9).
19 It's daft how everybody starts and no-one finishes (5).
20 Novel about modern black music (8,4).
24 Where you're expected to produce answer for girl (6).
25 Rebel soldiers, Confederate leader, and Yankee soldier, say (8).
26 King scoffed about a queen being a smashing sport (6).
27 Main way to lose weight (8).

DOWN
1 Rugby player used to be leader of pack (4).
2 Last train (4).
3 Person with lots of interesting relations (9).
4 Look for characters in Eastenders (8,4).
6 Protagonists hiding somewhere in South Island (5).
7 Take bite after getting unknown make of biscuit (6,4).
8 One wheeled out to provide bags of refreshment (3,7).
11 Scottish children's author's written about new English novelist (6,6).
13 Say something tactless and give up part of a course (4,1,5).
14 Footballer on the Reds' side (4-6).
17 Battle against the king and his advisers (9).
21 Entertainer, one trapped in lift (5).
22 Don't answer question, but succeed in exam (4).
23 Real fans must get over this shock (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,004



Times Two Crossword, page 44

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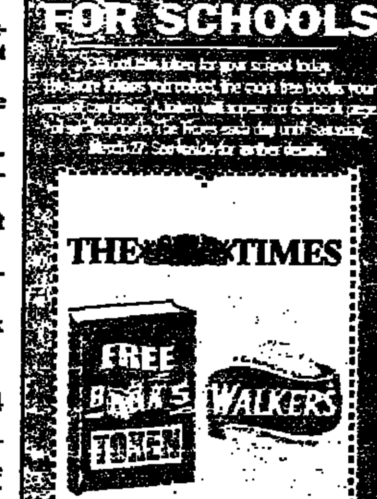
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Sun rises: 7.55 am · Sun sets: 4.28 pm
Moon sets: 7.57 pm · Moon rises: 9.24 am
First quarter: January 24th
London 4.28 pm to 7.54 am
Bristol 4.38 pm to 8.04 am
Edinburgh 4.20 pm to 8.27 am
Manchester 4.28 pm to 8.11 am
Penzance 4.55 pm to 8.10 am



☐ **General:** rain in the south and south-east of England will clear slowly and it will become brighter. The rest of England and Wales will have sunny spells and showers, Northern Ireland and western Scotland will have thundery showers with snow over mountains, and hail possible.

☐ **London, SE & Cent S England, E Anglia:** rain clearing. A fresh southwesterly wind. Max temp: 12C (54F).

☐ **Midlands, E England, Channel Islands:** rain then sunny spells and showers. A moderate southwesterly. Max: 11C (52F).

☐ **SW, NW, Cent N & NE England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man:** sunny spells and showers. A moderate southwesterly wind. Max temp: 10C (50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray:** early sunny spells, showers later. A fresh southwesterly. Max: 6C (43F).

☐ **SW, NE & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** thundery showers. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp: 6C (43F).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** sunny spells and heavy downpours. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp: 7C (45F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** showers or longer spells of rain. Wind southwest, fresh or strong. Max temp: 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain and hill sleet and snow will move across Scotland and Northern Ireland. The rest of the United Kingdom will be mainly dry and bright.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.8	0.01	9	48	sh
Anglesey	0.7	0.13	10	50	r
Aspatria	1.2	0.11	11	52	c
Aviemore	0.6	0.82	7	45	sh
Belfast	4.1	0.16	9	48	sh
Birmingham	0.2	0.06	12	54	r
Bognor R	-	0.37	11	52	r
Bournemth	-	0.86	11	52	r
Bristol	0.2	0.50	13	55	r
Buxton	-	0.26	11	52	r
Clacton	-	0.02	9	48	r
Cleethorpes	1.4	0.01	14	57	b
Colwyn Bay	1.3	0.03	14	57	b
Cromer	-	0.07	12	54	sh
Eastbourne	-	0.29	11	52	d
Edinburgh	0.5	0.37	9	48	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.88	8	46	r
Exmouth	-	0.47	12	54	r
Folkestone	-	0.24	10	50	r
Glasgow	0.1	0.38	9	48	sh
Guernsey	-	0.39	13	55	r
Hastings	-	0.20	10	50	r
Hayling I.	-	0.50	10	50	r
Hove	-	0.09	10	50	r
Hunstanton	0.4	0.03	1	34	c
Isle of Man	3.4	0.01	11	52	s
Isle of Wight	X	0.42	11	52	r
Jersey	-	0.16	11	52	r
Kinloss	3.4	0.01	9	48	s

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Leeds	0.1	0.11	13	55	sh
Lerwick	0.1	0.21	7	45	c
Leuchars	-	0.02	9	48	sh
Littlehampton	-	0.39	11	52	r
London	-	0.17	13	55	r
Lowestoft	-	0.04	11	52	r
Manchester	-	0.11	13	55	r
Margate	-	0.08	11	52	r
Morecambe	0.2	0.36	11	52	r
Newcastle	4.1	0.01	13	55	s
Newquay	-	0.42	12	54	r
Norwich	-	0.06	12	54	r
Oxford	0.2	0.25	13	55	r
Penzance	-	0.61	13	55	r
Prestatyn	1.3	0.02	13	55	b
Ross on Wye	0.5	0.18	13	55	r
Saunton Sands	-	0.28	12	54	r
Scarborough	0.6	0.13	12	54	r
Shrewsbury	-	0.03	13	55	r
Skegness	0.5	0.01	12	54	c
Southport	X	0.01	12	54	sh
Stornoway	3.5	0.43	8	46	s
Swanage	-	0.57	11	52	r
Teignmouth	-	0.44	13	55	r
Tiree	0.3	0.28	9	48	r
Torquay	-	0.56	13	55	r
Tynemouth	-	-	12	54	c
Weymouth	-	0.60	11	52	r

Highest day temp: Hawarden, Flintshire 14C (57F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir 0.92in; highest sunshine: Belfast and Newcastle, 4.1hr.

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	10	50	c	Cologne	-1	30	sn	Madrid	5	41	s	Rome	14	57	f
Akrotiri	19	66	f	C'phagn	0	32	f	Majorca	12	54	f	Salzburg	11	52	f
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Corfu	16	61	f	Malaga	13	55	f	S Frisco	6	43	s
Algiers	15	59	f	Dublin	-3	27	f	Malta	15	59	f	Santiago	24	75	s
Amst'dm	1	34	s	Dubrovnik	11	52	r	Melbourne	X			S Paulo	X	X	X
Athens	16	61	f	Faro	9	48	f	Mexico C	16	61	s	Seoul	-2	28	s
Bahrain	20	68	s	Florence	8	46	r	Miami	22	72	s	Singapore	30	86	f
Bangkok	30	86	f	Frankfurt	1	34	c	Milan	4	39	f	Stockholm	-9	16	s
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	12	54	t	Montreal	-16	3	s	Strasb'rg	1	34	c
Barcelona	7	45	s	Geneva	1	34	sn	Moscow	-12	10	sn	Sydney	33	91	s
Beirut	17	63	s	Gibraltar	12	54	r	Munich	2	36	f	Tangier	14	57	f
Belgrade	6	43	s	Helsinki	-11	12	c	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Berlin	-1	30	c	Hong K	16	61	f	Naples	14	57	c	Tenerife	16	61	r
Bermuda	19	66	r	Innsbruck	3	37	f	N Delhi	12	54	f	Tokyo	9	48	s
Biarritz	3	37	f	Istanbul	12	54	f	N York	-5	23	s	Toronto	-12	10	s
Bordeaux	2	36	c	Jeddah	23	73	f	Nice	10	50	f	Tunis	15	59	s
Brussels	-1	30	s	Jo'burg	16	61	r	Oslo	-10	14	c	Valencia	10	50	s
Budapest	1	34	r	L Palmas	18	64	c	Paris	1	34	f	Vancver	8	46	f
B Aires	23	73	s	Le Touquet	3	37	f	Perth	X			Venice	10	50	r
Beijing	-3	27	s	Lisbon	7	45	r	Prague	2	36	c	Vienna	1	34	r
Cairo	20	68	s	Locarno	1	34	sl	Reykjavik	2	36	sl	Warsaw	-3	27	f
Cape Tn	21	70	s	L Angeles	17	63	s	Rhodes	18	64	f	Washton	-1	30	s
Chicago	-16	3	s	Luxembg	-2	28	c	Rio de J	28	82	s	Zurich	1	34	s
Ch'church	X			Luxor	23	73	s	Riyadh	16	61	s				

Temperatures at midday local time, X = not available

MODERATE · ROUGH

Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will fill slowly while moving little; low Z will fill in situ and lose its identity; high B will see little change.

Warm front · Cold front · Occluded front

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:57	4.2	15:02	4.4
Avonmouth	8:53	13.4	21:12	13.2
Belfast	0:26	3.4	12:38	3.6
Cardiff	8:39	12.3	20:58	12.2
Devonport	7:24	5.5	19:44	5.3
Dover	0:24	6.6	12:39	6.5
Dublin	1:00	3.9	13:10	4.1
Falmouth	6:55	5.3	19:15	5.1
Greenock	2:04	3.2	14:22	3.6
Harwich	1:19	3.9	13:43	3.9
Holyhead	-	-	12:00	5.7
Hull (Albert D)	7:56	8.5	20:08	8.8
Ilfracombe	7:38	9.2	19:57	9.0
King's Lynn	8:00	6.5	20:06	7.1
Leith	4:15	5.4	16:26	5.5

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	0:36	9.2	12:55	9.5
London Bridge	3:24	7.3	15:49	7.3
Lowestoft	11:16	2.4	23:18	2.6
Margate	1:29	4.8	13:55	4.7
Milford Haven	7:52	6.9	20:12	6.7
Newquay	6:44	6.9	19:04	6.8
Oban	7:21	4.1	19:33	3.9
Penzance	6:14	5.6	18:33	5.3
Portland	8:51	2.1	21:15	1.9
Portsmouth	0:49	4.6	12:57	4.7
Shoreham	0:40	6.2	12:47	6.1
Southampton	0:24	4.5	12:31	4.5
Swansea	7:56	12.1	20:15	11.9
Tees	5:22	9.8	17:29	10.0
Walton-On-Naze	1:06	4.1	13:32	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

THE TIMES 2

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Gough's burst keeps England well on course
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TELEVISION AND RADIO
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 1999

AtHome creates Web giant with £4bn deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

ATHOME, the Internet service provider controlled by AT&T, yesterday agreed to buy Excite, the loss-making Internet search company linked to BT, for $6.7 billion (£4 billion) in the biggest online merger.

The combination overtakes the $4.2 billion link-up of America On-Line and Netscape announced last November, now worth about $6.6 billion after the recent surge in Internet shares. Online consolidation is expected to drive technology stocks to new heights and valuation records.

The AtHome-Excite merger also marks the deepening of the alliance between BT and AT&T. The two transatlantic telecom leaders last year agreed to expand their traditional phone service in tandem but stopped short of a merger. BT owns a 50 per cent stake in Excite UK, which it acquired for $10 million.

Under the terms of the deal, AtHome will issue 1.04 of its shares for each Excite share, valuing them at $106.27, a 57 per cent premium to the last closing price. At the start of trading yesterday, shares jumped to $106 before falling back to about $95.

According to the agreement, the deal will be whisked through and is supposed to be completed in three months. The completion would almost coincide with the closure of the $32 billion AT&T takeover of TCI. The cable company is AtHome's biggest shareholder.

The Excite acquisition forms part of AT&T's new strategy to belatedly seek leadership of the Internet sector. Michael Armstrong, the executive chairman appointed last year, tied the phone giant's future to new media with the TCI deal.

Mr Armstrong hopes to build an integrated media and telecoms company that delivers phone services and Internet content via the same hardware. With TCI, he acquired the hardware link to the Internet, while Excite will now form the content backbone.

Excite has a range of free websites offering news, chat rooms, retailing and listings. The company earns revenue from advertising on the edges of the company screens. It has never made a profit. In the third quarter of last year, it had revenues of $44 million.

These statistics have made some Wall Street analysts sceptical about the deal. Rick Berry, an analyst at JP Turner, said: "I have trouble seeing a $1 billion market cap for Excite. They're overpaying for it but that's characteristic of anytime we are in a mania."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6027.6	(-96.3)
Yield	2.71%	
FTSE All Share	2730.73	(-37.96)
Nikkei	13770.44	(-34.62)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9252.49	(-88.06)*
S&P Composite	1239.32	(-3.94)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾-⅝%*	(unq)
Long bond	102⅝*	(...)
Yield	5.11%*	(...)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5⅞-¾%	(5⅞-⅝%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	119.31	(119.36)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6553*	(1.6529)
London:		
$	1.6585	(1.6518)
€	1.4290	(1.4241)
SFr	2.2811	(2.2876)
Yen	188.55	(188.79)
£ index	99.9	(99.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1606*	(1.1600)
SFr	1.3751*	(1.3808)
Yen	113.73*	(114.37)
$ index	104.3	(104.5)

Tokyo close Yen 114.06

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$11.20	($10.95)

GOLD

London close	$285.75	($286.85)

Exchange rates .... Page 24

* denotes midday trading prices

Inflation increase leads to fears of delay in rate cut

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INFLATION unexpectedly climbed above target in December, raising fears that the Bank of England may delay further interest rate cuts.

The annual rate of underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, increased from 2.5 per cent in November to 2.6 per cent, the first time it has breached the target level since last July.

However, headline inflation continued to decline, reaching 2.8 per cent compared with 3.0 per cent the previous month, as mortgage costs continue to slide.

The chief cause of the rise was an 11 per cent jump in seasonal food prices. Household goods prices also climbed as retailers tried to push through pre-Christmas price rises.

The figures pushed the pound higher. The euro slid to 69.99p against sterling, its lowest closing level, while the pound also rose from $1.6515 to $1.6583.

The data, coupled with the problems in Brazil, helped to depress the stock market, with the FTSE 100 closing down 96.3 points to 6,027.6.

City analysts and business groups were quick, however, to claim the figures were a blip and that the Bank should not hold off from making further rate cuts.

Kate Barker, chief economic adviser to the CBI, said: "We expect inflation to move below the Government's target and believe interest rates should be reduced towards 5 per cent by the spring."

Separate data showed a larger than expected public sector net cash requirement of £3.2 billion in December. Economists said, however, that the Government remains on target to post a healthy full-year surplus.

Commentary, page 25

BAe under attack after £7bn merger with GEC

CHRIS HARRIS



High-flyers: Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, chief executive of GEC, parent group of Marconi, left, and Sir Richard Evans, chairman of British Aerospace

BY ADAM JONES

BRITISH AEROSPACE was yesterday hit by accusations that its £7 billion merger with the Marconi Electronic Systems arm of GEC has damaged British, German and French Government hopes of greater industrial co-operation within Europe.

British Aerospace shares also fell nearly 14 per cent, wiping about £750 million from the original value of its bid, amid claims it had overpaid.

The Marconi deal will create the world's third-biggest aerospace company by sales, behind Boeing and Lockheed Martin of the US.

Before Christmas, BAe had been in merger talks with Dasa, the German aerospace group owned by Daimler-Chrysler, but these were left behind when GEC emerged as a willing suitor.

Yesterday, the jilted Dasa gave warning: "If the BAe/GEC merger proceeds as announced, it will make balanced European horizontal mergers such as Dasa-BAe impossible and create an obstacle to European integration."

One analyst at a London broker said the decision to link the two British companies would delay European consolidation. The UK Government is keen for cross-border alliances to be formed.

GEC will demerge Marconi Electronic Systems before selling it. GEC shareholders will then exchange their stake in Marconi for 1.17 billion new shares in BAe — about 36.7 per cent of the merged group, which will be known as New British Aerospace.

They will also get about £440 million of loan stock. Marconi will also be loaded with £1.55 billion of net debt, releasing cash to the rump GEC group, which will focus on telecommunications and electronics.

Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the chief executive of GEC, played down speculation that GEC might bid for Racal's telecoms arm. He will have £2.657 billion in cash for acquisitions and said yesterday that it is his intention to create a business twice the size of "old GEC" before he retires.

Lord Simpson, 56, is better known for disposing of businesses than buying them. He managed the sale of Rover to BMW when at British Aerospace. He said: "I hope people are going to see the business development side of George Simpson." Low-growth businesses at GEC, such as its Hotpoint washing machines arm, will be placed in a new division, GEC Capital.

BAe responded to claims that it had overpaid by saying the deal should lead to annual cost savings of £275 million by the third year, although there will be a one-off £200 million cost to achieve this. Marconi Electronic Systems had sales of £3.685 billion in 1998, making a profit of £418 million before tax and interest. BAe still wants to merge with Dasa.

New British Aerospace will employ about 100,000 people and have a turnover of £12.4 billion and profits of £968 million on 1997 figures. John Weston, chief executive of BAe, said few job losses were likely. Earnings per share should be enhanced by more than 10 per cent in the third year with neutral effect in the first year.

GEC will keep the Marconi brand name. Michael Lester and Sir Charles Masefield will join Peter Gershon, the Marconi Electronic Systems managing director in moving from the GEC board to the New BAe board.

Michael Blogg, an analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, said: "I think BAe has paid a full price but strategically I think they can justify it." Panmure Gordon, the broker, said it welcomed the deal.

Another analyst, who preferred not to be named, said BAe had "very much" overpaid: "A fairer price would have been £6 billion."

It is not yet clear whether the European Commission or the UK Government will have jurisdiction over the deal.

It is understood that the Government will refuse to say that the merger will escape a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in answer to a parliamentary question tomorrow.

It is also not yet clear how much will be paid to the advisers on the deal. BAe employed Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs. GEC employed Warburg Dillon Read and Morgan Stanley.

BRITISH AEROSPACE
GEC MARCONI

Commentary, page 25
Europe cries foul, page 27

Grid looks for £1.2bn from sale of Energis

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL GRID is to raise £1.2 billion by selling a chunk of Energis, the telecoms company, in a move that will fund a rapid expansion in the US and other overseas markets.

It could spend £500 million of the proceeds as early as next month on an electricity business in Massachusetts. Stephen Box, finance director, revealed that the company, which controls electricity transmission, was close to a second purchase in New England after its £2.7 billion takeover of New England Electricity System, which was announced last month.

The sale of up to 75 million shares in Energis — in which the Grid has a 75 per cent stake — should net about £800 million profit for the company and will be in two tranches. The Grid will simultaneously convert its Energis preference shares to ordinary shares and reduce its holding to between 45 per cent and 49 per cent.

The sale has been prompted by the soaring value of telecoms shares and the wish to bring more liquidity into Energis.

Energis shares, which were floated in December 1997 at 290p, leapt from £15.22½ to £16.55. National Grid shares rose 18p to 545½p.

Tempus and markets, page 26

Mirror calls for two valuations

THE Mirror Group board has called for two independent valuations of the company to set a base line for takeover negotiations (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The valuations of the group, whose titles include The Mirror, Sunday Mirror and The People, should be available before the end of this week.

The bid approach by Regional Independent Media, publisher of the Yorkshire Post, suggests a value of about £900 million, a figure that does not include debt. Trinity, a rival regional newspaper group, withdrew from bid talks with Mirror Group earlier this month.

Brazilians lift interest to 41%

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Brazilian Central Bank yesterday lifted interest rates as the Government vowed that it would not let Brazil's currency devaluation undermine its battle against inflation.

The rise in the bank's key lending rate, from 29 per cent to 41 per cent, dashed hopes of the bank cutting rates to kick-start the world's eighth-largest economy.

International markets responded nervously, with Wall Street falling sharply after a bright opening. The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 75 points at midday. The French and German markets ended modestly down, and the dollar came under pressure as traders switched into "safe haven" currencies, such as the Swiss franc.

The Brazilian currency, the real, slipped to about 1.61 to the dollar, before stabilising at 1.59, some 24 per cent below its trading range ahead of the currency float.

However, Brazilian shares, which have risen by 40 per cent since the Government chose to float the currency on Friday, recovered from early falls to gain about 2 per cent.

Pedro Malan, Finance Minister, said the interest rate rise was intended to avoid a return to inflation while the Government tried to get tough fiscal reforms through Parliament.

Economists gave warning, however, that the rate rise could push the economy further into recession and threaten the health of neighbouring countries. The move could also make it harder for the Government to cut its budget deficit because it will have to pay more to service its debt.

Commentary, page 25

Sunshine back at Club Med

BY MARTIN BARROW

PHILIPPE Bourguignon, the Frenchman credited with rescuing Euro Disney, appears to have pulled another ailing leisure company back from the brink.

Club Méditerranée, the resort group, yesterday reported a return to profit after attracting thousands of tourists back to its fun-in-the-sun holiday villages.

Price cuts of up to 30 per cent, renovated resorts and some new destinations have revitalised Club Med. The group had seemed to have been struck a fatal blow by a new generation of resort companies and the changing tastes of tourists, who were deserting beaches in search of activity holidays in exotic spots.

However, M Bourguignon has proved doubters wrong. His strategy pulled in 116,000 extra customers last year, a rise of 27 per cent, despite a temporary cut in capacity because of renovations. In the 1997-8 financial year, Club Med renovated 17 resorts and opened four new resorts, two in France and one each in Tunisia and Egypt.

Club Med reported operating profits of FFr386 million (£41.2 million), against a FFr104 million loss the previous year. M Bourguignon believes that Club Med can double operating income by 2000.

He said: "I am more than ever confident in the future of Club Méditerranée, and especially in our ability to meet the objective of FFr700 million to FFr750 million in operating income in 2000."

Club Med's shares rose almost 6 per cent on the Paris bourse as its income beat the market's consensus forecast of FFr160 million.

Maggots, food of the cods?

BY SAEED SHAH

THE VAT man is having to roll up his sleeves and get to grips with maggots.

The VAT Tribunal, having determined that a Jaffa Cake was a cake and not a biscuit, must now rule whether maggots could be considered to be food. The outcome could have a significant financial bearing on the pet food and animal feed markets.

The tribunal is considering an appeal by an Essex company trading as Mag-it, a supplier of live maggots for anglers. The company, whose slogan is "Bag-it with Mag-it" had argued that maggots were food, food because fish eat them and, as a result, should be zero-rated for VAT purposes in common with most animal feeds.

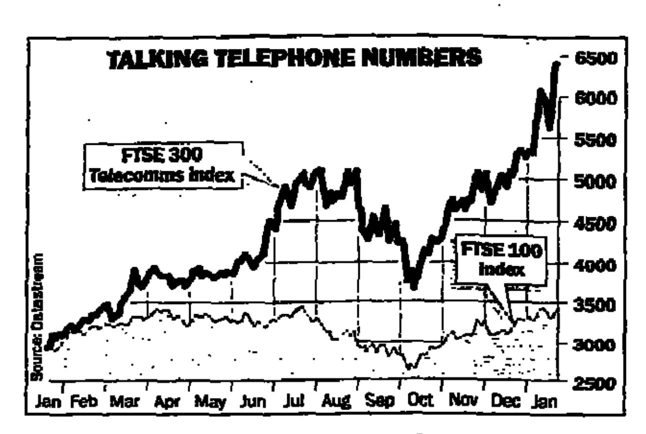
But the VAT man disagreed, saying the primary purpose of maggots was not to feed the fish but to attract them so they could be caught by fishermen.

Mag-it sells the live maggots from vending machines on garage forecourts. For £2, you can buy a a pint of maggots, with 2,958 maggots to the pint. They come in a choice of eight different colours.

Hugh Mainprice, of Mainprice & Co., the solicitor acting for Mag-it, argued that fewer than 1 per cent of the maggots are actually used on the hook as bait and so they must be considered animal feed.

The original hearing, before Tribunal chairman Jill Gort, was shown a video of Bob Nudd, three times world champion carp angler, throwing handfuls of maggots, at regular intervals, into the water while fishing as "feed". Mr Nudd said that it could take several hours of this to get the fish "excited".

Why now looks a good time to hang on to telecoms



By Chris Ayres

INVESTORS in telecom companies such as Vodafone, Orange, BT, Colt and Energis face a dilemma. Do they sell now in the belief that share prices cannot be sustained at current high levels or hold tight and hope that this is simply the beginning of an exciting long-term trend?

Even Sir Gerald Whent, the former chief executive of Vodafone, failed to *predict the extraordinary growth of the* telecoms sector. Twelve months ago — long before Vodafone's £67 billion merger with AirTouch — Sir Gerald decided to sell 1.2 million shares in the mobile phone company at just over £3 each. We all know now, of course, that if Sir Gerald had been just a little more patient he would now be some £12 million richer.

Before making a decision on whether to hold on to telecoms stocks, investors should consider the shockingly brief stock market history of Ionica, the Cambridge telephone company. Ionica was valued at £660 million following its *much-hyped flotation during the* summer of 1997, and collapsed only 15 months later. Yet few big telecoms companies suffer from the managerial and technical problems that caused Ionica's *downfall. The growth* of companies such as Colt and Energis are also fuelled by markets that Ionica was never poised to take advantage of — in particular, the Internet, e-mail, corporate Intranet systems, and e-commerce (transactions conducted online).

So far, this demand comes mainly from the business world, but will soon be complemented by consumer demand as more people hook-up to the Internet at home, and subscribe to interactive television services. If all this looks like a good reason to buy into the telecoms sector, it looks like an even better reason to buy into the mobile telephone sector. All the signs so far suggest that the market penetration of mobile phone companies will double within four years to 50 per cent in most Western countries.

At the same time, new technology will allow mobile phone companies to also *cash-in on the demand for* data. Conducting a video conference via a *mobile phone* handset looks set to become a reality within a few years.

It is worth remembering, however, that companies such as Colt and Energis, whose share prices are based entirely on profits that have not yet been made, are very different to the likes of Vodafone and BT. During a crash, shares in Colt and Energis would be highly vulnerable, as investors tend to pile into cash generative companies such as supermarket chains and cigarette manufacturers.

However, all the evidence would suggest so far that the likes of Colt and Energis can survive stock market volatility. After all, it will take years for the demand for Internet-related services to be satisfied, and for the glamour surrounding companies in the sector to wear off.

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Anger as RJB asks miners to reject EU rights

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

RJB MINING has asked all its miners to sign away *employment rights under the* EU's Working Time Directive. The move has provoked further anger as the company faces two union ballots for industrial action in protest over a pay plan.

The company asked its 6,800 miners to "take steps to work their normal hours". This means signing an opt-out clause from the Working Time Directive, which rules that workers should not work *more than 48 hours* per week. Those who stick to their rights are likely to see their pay cut.

RJB said that some miners work extra hours on a standard 7¼-hour shift and undertake overtime shifts to push *their working weeks regularly* past 50 hours.

Nacods, the pit deputies' union, claims that its members *are being pressurised by RJB* and are being accused of an overtime ban when they are only exercising rights under the directive, which came into force last October.

The union said that safety *could be jeopardised because* pit officials were often required to work seven days a week to provide adequate cover in collieries.

Ian Parker, the president of the union's Yorkshire area, said: "*This union will not sit* idly by and watch its members being victimised by RJB Mining.

"If the company wishes to enter into the spirit of the Working Time Directive and *negotiate on it, the union is* always willing to listen, but up to the present time, the company has only taken a one-sided view."

RJB said that it had had *some positive responses* to its letter, mainly from the Midlands area. A spokesman said that the company *wished to* continue normal hours and *that Richard Budge, its chief* executive, was anxious for miners to spend more time with their families.

RJB employees will vote next month in ballots that could trigger the first miners' strike for 15 years. *Both the* National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers are balloting their members on possible action.

RJB has offered a pay rise of *inflation minus 1 per cent for* five years. Miners have pointed to the wide gap between their offer and Mr Budge's pay in 1997 — the latest published figure for his salary. He earned £610,000 that year, including a bonus of £224,460, despite a 75 per cent slump in *RJB's share price and* a 9 per cent fall in profits.


Sir Peter Davis said that the figures were creditable

Pru sees 13% rise in new business

By Richard Miles

PRUDENTIAL yesterday reported a 13 per cent rise in UK new business to £785 million, largely reflecting the first-time inclusion of a full year from Scottish Amicable, the life insurer it acquired 16 months ago for £2.8 billion.

Scottish Amicable, which distributes its products through independent financial advisers, contributed £163.5 million in weighted *premiums (regular* premiums plus 10 per cent of single), a rise of 24 per cent year-on-year.

However, Prudential's traditional direct sales new business was unchanged at £306 million. Salesforce *numbers* have fallen to 3,200 from 4,600 from the start of the year.

The Pru also said that Egg, the innovative banking service launched last autumn, had attracted £1.3 billion in deposits. *Total banking deposits at the* company now amount to £2.2 billion, while mortgage advances have grown to £500 million.

Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive, said the figures were a "creditable performance" against a background of economic uncertainty.

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Struggling Mitsui Trust to merge

TWO troubled Japanese banks are *to merge as the country's* financial sector edges towards further reform. Mitsui Trust and Banking is to merge with Chuo Trust and Banking to form Japan's largest trust bank with assets of about £241 billion and 170 branch offices. Mitsui Trust is by far the larger of the two banks and ranks as the third biggest of Japan's trust banks, which are in charge of managing pension funds.

Many of Japan's top banks, saddled with huge bad loans, have struggled in the past year. Already the Government has forcibly nationalised two banks after they failed to agree merger deals with rivals. Nippon Credit Bank, the last bank to be taken over by the state, had tried to merge with Chuo Trust. But Chuo pulled out, apparently scared off by Nippon's market losses and poor financial position. Under reforms passed last October, *banks have been encouraged to ask for injections of taxpayers'* money to help them to write off bad loans. Mitsui will ask for about £1.1 billion, while Chuo will seek £691 million.

Hanson looks to US

HANSON, the Anglo-American building materials group, could spend £200 million on acquisitions over the next year or so, focusing its *growth strategy on the buoyant US market.* Andrew Dougal, chief executive, yesterday said that he expected the US market to continue growing, helped by a government programme to increase spending on infrastructure projects by 40 per cent over the next six years. The group yesterday unveiled a new unified corporate structure, changing the name of each of its operating companies to Hanson.

Debenham Tewson up

DEBENHAM Tewson & Chinnocks Holdings, the property consultancy, said that it is confident of continued progress in the second half of its year despite uncertainties in the UK and abroad. The company reported pre-tax profits of £4.68 million for the half year to October 31, up from £3.16 million a *year earlier.* The interim dividend rises to 1.5p, from 1.3p. Turnover was £45.98 million (£36.73 million). Earnings per share were 5.29p (4.26p).

Victory losses deepen

VICTORY CORPORATION, the clothing, cosmetics and toiletries retailer which trades under the Virgin brand, said it was unlikely to open additional outlets this year in the light of difficult trading conditions. The company reported increased losses of £10.9 million for the half year to September 30, compared with a £3.5 million loss previously. The company attributed 40 per cent of the deficit to a £4 million investment in the launch of its clothing business.

Eidos shares surge

SHARES in Eidos rose 65p to £11.65 yesterday after the publisher of entertainment software reported exceptionally strong demand in the three months to December 31. The company said that it had supplied in excess of six million units, well ahead of expectations. Titles released in the quarter included *Michael Owen's World League Soccer*, *Tomb Raider 3* and *Thief: The Dark Project*. Eidos shares have recovered strongly since touching a 12-month low of 555p in October.

Dagenham accepts bid

DAGENHAM MOTORS, the UK's biggest dedicated Ford car dealer, has accepted a £28.3 million takeover bid by Polar Motor Group, a joint venture between Ford and Jardine Motors. The 160p-a-share cash offer *represents a 33 per cent* premium to Dagenham's stock market value last September when a potential offer was announced. Dagenham has 16 Ford car and van dealerships and three Iveco Ford commercial vehicle dealerships in the South East of England.

ECB remains vague on rates

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE European Central Bank yesterday warned that global *economic problems could hit* Europe harder than expected but gave few clues as to the immediate outlook for European interest rates.

In its first monthly bulletin, the ECB stuck to its favoured formula that rates would remain unchanged for the "foreseeable *future*", *arguing the* threat of higher inflation is as significant as slowing output.

"The negative repercussions of recent global developments on economic growth in the euro area could turn out to be *more serious than currently* anticipated", the report said.

The ECB said it was clear from recent data that economic growth is slowing and said industrial confidence had declined "significantly". However, it insisted that that loose fiscal policies and rising wages *could still add to inflation.*

"Wage demands in excess of labour productivity growth and a relaxation of the fiscal stance in the euro area could represent sources of inflationary risk in the future", the report said.

The ECB also cited a potential *inflationary threat from* buoyant consumer confidence but concluded that the overall outlook "for price developments in the euro area can be regarded as broadly balanced".

Analysts said the ECB appears intent on providing only limited guidance on interest rates but that there was nothing in the report to prevent a widely forecast cut in rates as early as next month.

US brokers and banks resilient

By Richard Miles

WALL STREET banks and brokers performed ahead of *analysts' expectations in the* fourth quarter, despite volatility in financial markets and uncertainty about the global economic outlook.

Merrill Lynch, the biggest broker in the US, reported a 23 per cent *fall* in fourth-quarter net earnings to $359 million *(£216 million), but the results* easily beat the consensus forecast by more than 30 per cent.

However, Merrill said that private client assets, assets under management and mergers & acquisition activity all hit record *levels.*

Principal transactions revenues slumped 66 per cent to $211 million. Merrill said continuing wide credit spreads and reduced liquidity contributed to losses in corporate and high-yield bonds, as well as mortgage-backed securities.

Chase Manhattan also exceeded market expectations with a 35 per cent rise in fouth-quarter net earnings to $1.146 billion. Net profit per share was $1.31 compared with banking analysts' forecasts of $1.19.

It was the same *story at JP* Morgan, where fourth-quarter *earnings* were 42 *cents per* share against a forecast of 35 cents, and at PaineWebber, where earnings were 63 cents per share compared with a consensus of 54 cents.

Bear Stearns reported a 15 *per cent drop in second-quarter* net earnings to $135.9 million as investment banking fees collapsed, but the firm managed to beat forecasts, which had been scaled back after the summer's financial turmoil.

Unigate buys Fisher subsidiary

By Robert Cole
City Correspondent

ALBERT FISHER, the troubled food producer, has sold its saucemaking business to Unigate for £43 million.

Fisher, which has issued a string of *profits warnings in recent years, also told* investors yesterday that its profitability is under further strain. Hugh Ashton, chairman, said: "Management figures for the first four months of the current financial year are substantially below the like-for-like figures for the comparable period."

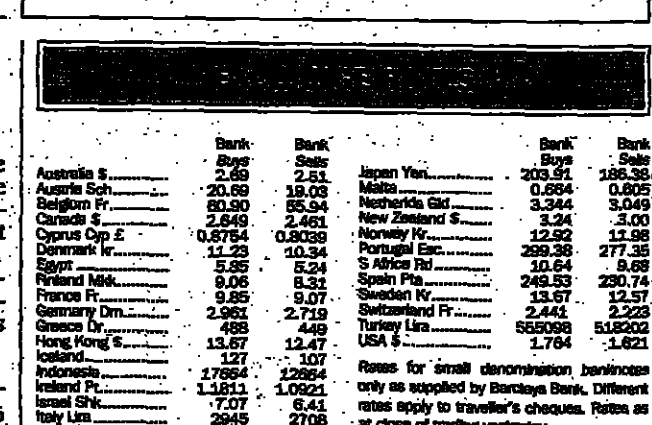
Proceeds of the sauces sale will be used to cut group debt, which was £147 million at the end of the last financial year, on 31 August. The sale is the first significant corporate move undertaken since Terry Robinson, *formerly with Lonrho, took up* the position of chief executive at Fisher.

Mr Robinson said that the sale of Fisher Quality Foods would be followed by other disposals, of the company's seafood operation on the Continent, and of the chilled foods business. He said: "The sale ... is the first major step in Albert Fisher's strategic plan to reduce group debt and restore shareholder value."

FQF's purchase price includes assumption of £16 million of debt, and is equivalent *to almost ten times* the subsidiary's £4.4 million operating profit for 1998.

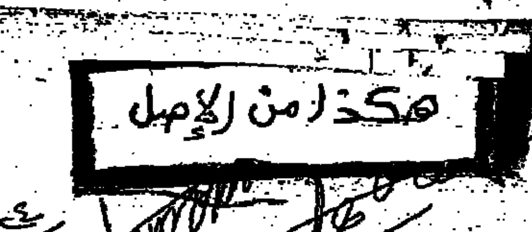
Fisher shares closed down ¼p at 5¾p.

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	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.69	2.51	Japan Yen	203.91	186.38
Austria Sch	20.69	19.03	Malta	0.664	0.605
Belgium Fr	60.90	55.94	Netherlds Gld	3.344	3.049
Canada $	2.649	2.461	New Zealand $	3.24	3.00
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8754	0.8039	Norway Kr	12.92	11.98
Denmark Kr	11.23	10.34	Portugal Esc	299.38	277.35
Egypt	5.85	5.24	S Africa Rd	10.64	9.68
Finland Mkk	9.06	8.31	Spain Pta	249.53	230.74
France Fr	9.85	9.07	Sweden Kr	13.67	12.57
Germany Dm	2.961	2.719	Switzerland Fr	2.441	2.223
Greece Dr	488	449	Turkey Lira	555098	518202
Hong Kong $	13.67	12.47	USA $	1.764	1.621
Iceland	127	107			
Indonesia	17664	12664			
Ireland Pt	1.1811	1.0921			
Israel Shk	7.07	6.41			
Italy Lira	2945	2708			

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Simpson's chance to build, not sell



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Forget plans to create a European defence giant: what is needed now is a peace keeping force. Relations between the British and German participants in the much discussed Euro-grouping have soured to the extent that Kate Adie is likely to be parachuted in to report on the hostilities at any moment.

The furious reaction of DaimlerChrysler's Jurgen Schrempp to the British Aerospace deal with Marconi indicates that his view of the balance of power in any Euro defence combine might not have concurred exactly with that of Sir Richard Evans. Sir Richard will now have to indulge in a little diplomacy if he wants to persuade the Germans and the French that the wisdom of them all joining forces remains intact. He will have to be extra tactful not to remind them that he is making the case from a much stronger position than before. Injured feelings are likely to ensure that the timetable for any formal coming together is now significantly lengthened.

But neither the Continental peevishness nor the British stock market's reaction over the £8 billion merger does anything to detract from the reputation of Lord Simpson of Dunkeld as a seller of businesses. British Aerospace might not have been in a position to do the deal if he had not, as the culmination of his time with the group, sold Rover to BMW. It took him barely any time to turn Lucas into LucasVarity, a deal which Victor Rice seems convinced was a takeover by any other name. Now, after a couple of years at the helm of GEC, he is selling its defence business to his old firm.

The two form a logical combine but by not rushing to clinch the deal, Lord Simpson has secured a better price than he might have done. The protestations from Germany owe more than a little to the feeling that Dasa has been a useful part of his negotiating process rather than a serious contender to complete the deal.

The challenge of building a future in the hugely competitive defence business now rests with Sir Richard Evans. Given that Gordon Brown is unlikely to favour throwing extra billions at the UK defence budget, that will be no easy task. Given that the biggest orders are more likely to come from far flung parts than from Europe, it could be argued that he would do as well to try and pursue links with the United States rather than Europe.

Lord Simpson will be blissfully free of the political considerations that inevitably dominate the defence business. He intends to roam free around the world building new GEC. It will, naturally, be a telecommunications business — who would want to build anything else at the moment? And it will be the test of whether he can build businesses as well as sell them.

Lord Weinstock was absolutely determined that Simpson would be his successor. Now the chosen one has a chance to demonstrate the talent he spotted.

Just what the doctor ordered

Mobile phones may suddenly have become a subject of intense interest round at Zeneca's Stanhope Gate headquarters. Received wisdom has it that no one will seek to spoil Zeneca's £45 billion merger with Astra — partly because Sir David Barnes and Tom McKillop are so pally with their Swedish chums, but also because of the goodwill problem that stands in the way of any hostile takeover. A bid would produce £30 billion of goodwill, creating an annual amortisation charge to profits of perhaps £1.5 billion. Even the mighty Glaxo Wellcome and Roche would think twice before taking on such a millstone.

However, the enthusiastic response that greeted Vodafone's £37.5 billion bid for AirTouch may have changed the rules of the game. Vodafone's investors seem to have completely ignored the prospect of an annual charge of £2 billion, focusing instead on the strategic benefits backed by strong and growing cashflow. If mobile phone investors are prepared to ignore the profit and loss account, perhaps Zeneca is more vulnerable than it looks.

Goldman Sachs, Zeneca's adviser, remains quietly confident its carefully prepared merger plans will not be thrown off course. For one thing, analysts and investors in the go-go telecoms sector are more comfortable with heavily loss-making companies than their more staid colleagues in pharmaceuticals, who still focus on traditional measures of earnings.

More compellingly, acquiring Zeneca (or Astra) may lack strategic logic for the possible bidders. Zeneca is too small to enable Glaxo Wellcome to achieve its growth goals; SmithKline Beecham is still licking its wounds while Roche appears to have ruled itself out of the bidding. And American companies such as Eli Lilly and Warner-Lambert may not be attracted by firms with patent expiry problems that are heavily dependent on the slower growing European market.

The Astra-Zeneca bond has been slowly forged and may be hard to break: the two companies' claims to a shared culture ring true. Combining their portfolios of cardiovascular and anaesthetic drugs also makes sense.

The betting remains that the deal will go through and that Dr McKillop will have his chance to run the world's third-largest drugs group. But as Zeneca prepares to issue its merger document, he could be forgiven for fumbling nervously with his Vodafone.

Brazil should say nuts to depression

Brazilians doubtless hope that devaluation will ease the pain endured in their vain attempt to maintain the value of the real and to keep foreign investors happy. They might even look to the UK experience after 1992 for reassurance.

If so, they will be disappointed. Their suffering from shrinking public services, mass firing and even freak weather, which tempted populist provincial governors to dish the austerity programme, seems destined to get worse — at least for a while.

The classic adjustment model, which worked here, suggests that Brazil should now cut interest rates but tighten its fiscal stance even further to sustain the currency and leave room for non-inflationary recovery. But so far, short-term interest rates have jumped from 29 to 40 per cent, while those provincial governors and opposition legislators seem far from inclined to help Finance Minister Pedro Malan to balance his federal Budget. This appears to be a recipe for spiralling recession on the Asian model.

One reason the Government was so anxious to avoid the real sinking was the country's heavy foreign debt, both private and public. City economist Stephen Lewis reckons that servicing it could absorb an extra 4 per cent of national income, that could only be recouped if domestic interest rates fell. Now, unless the Budget can be righted by political consensus or a national fire sale, Brazil could stay in crisis, taking others with it.

Self-inflicted

DON'T blame potatoes. Furniture and household goods' retailers, it seems, pushed prices up before Christmas, perhaps ending autumn discounts, perhaps preparing for bigger percentage cuts in the sales. Either way, it could be costly. The price rises pushed underlying inflation above target, making it far less likely that the Bank of England will rush through another base rate cut next month. That would be bad news for household goods shops, heralding spring discounts to recoup lost sales. Serves them right.

Watchdog demands rights for savers

Consumers need "a no-quibble legal right to redress" if they buy a personal pension or savings plan that does not come up to scratch, a leading public rights group demands in a report published today.

The National Consumer Council (NCC) says that the draft Financial Services and Markets Bill, which will give statutory powers to the new unitary regulator, fails to provide adequate protection for the buying public.

David Hatch, NCC chairman, argues that the Bill should contain a set of consumer protection principles, similar to those that underpin the 1979 Sale of Goods Act. The public has more legal clout if sold a faulty kettle than if a pension or insurance policy fails to meet accepted standards.

GPE debenture

Great Portland Estates, the property group, yesterday announced the issue of £100 million first mortgage debenture stock due in 2029. It will be issued at a 1.35 per cent margin over the gross redemption yield of the 6 per cent Treasury stock 2028. Richard Peskin, chairman, said: "We have one or two interesting situations on the go. This seemed an ideal opportunity to raise £100 million for 30 years at the lowest domestic coupon for decades."

Zergo shares soar

Shares in Zergo Holdings, the company that produces software to encrypt information sent over the Internet, soared 30 per cent to 702½p after signing a licensing agreement with Intel Corporation, the US microchip group. Zergo will market Intel's Common Data Security Architecture (CDSA) technology, which allows software developers to make trading over the Internet secure. Zergo shares traded at just 165p last December.

Key Lekkerland

Goodwins, the Key Lekkerland member for the North West and West Midlands that was recently acquired by BWG, does not operate Spar or Mace retail outlets (Business News, January 9).

Somerfield to expand chain at Elf garages

By Sarah Cunningham

SOMERFIELD, the supermarkets group, is to double the number of its stores offering home delivery over the next six months and it is planning a big expansion of its chain of stores at petrol stations.

The company, which bought Kwik Save last March and announced better than expected interim results yesterday, said that it is to open up to 50 stores at Elf petrol stations in the next 18 months. There are currently five Elf stores and Somerfield will share in an investment of £25 million.

Somerfield's home delivery service, in which people buy their shopping in stores and have it delivered later that day, now operates in 150 stores, a rise of 90 in six months. The total will rise to 300 by the financial year's end.

Assuming that Somerfield had owned Kwik Save in the first half of last year, group interim pre-tax profits rose by more than 30 per cent to £113.8 million. Reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items rose 100 per cent, from £56.8 million.

David Simons, the chief executive, said that Somerfield is in line to produce the forecast savings from the Kwik Save merger, of £70 million a year, within three years. Within the half-year, synergy savings of £17 million had been made, the company said.

The company has now converted ten of Kwik Save's 872 stores to the Somerfield format, and will convert 53 more by Easter. It has shut 14 stores in total in the first half, and the group now trades from 1,423.

Fully diluted earnings per share fell from 17.3p to 16.8p, but the interim dividend is to rise from 3.8p to 4.5p.

Like-for-like sales in Somerfield fascia stores grew 3.4 per cent in the first half, but by just 1.7 per cent at Christmas. Mr Simons said that this dip in growth tended to occur each year because people made trips to superstores, such as Tesco and Sainsbury, to stock up for Christmas, rather than relying on high street shops such as Somerfield.

Kwik Save sales fell 3.1 per cent in the first half. The group said it expects the trend to stay negative, particularly because preparing stores for conversion to the Somerfield format will disrupt trading.

□ Dawn Til Dusk Holdings, a supermarket and fresh food group, said like-for-like sales rose by 0.23 per cent at Christmas, with year-to-date sales 0.73 per cent behind last year. In the six months to October 16, pre-tax profits rose to £316,000, from £301,000, on turnover up 25 per cent to £32.6 million. Earnings per share fell to 4.4p, from 5.6p, which was attributed to effects of a rights issue. The interim dividend is 1.5p, up from 1.4p.

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Cult classic: Thunderbirds, part of the ITC library, which has doubled Carlton's collection

Carlton is go with £91m ITC library deal

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

CARLTON Communications has boosted significantly its library of television programmes and feature films with its $150 million (£91 million) purchase of the old ITC library, until recently part of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment.

The titles bought range from feature films such as *The Eagle Has Landed*, *The Big Easy*, *On Golden Pond* and *Farewell My Lovely* to television programmes such as *The Saint*, *Edward VII* and *Thunderbirds*.

The stock more than 300 films and 5,000 hours of television boosts the size of Carlton's library by more than 50 per cent, and, Carlton said, strengthened its position as "the world's largest commercial distributor of British television programmes and films".

The ITC library became available because of the purchase of PolyGram, including PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, by Seagram.

The library ended up with Universal Studios, the Seagram film-making subsidiary.

Carlton kept close to potential bidders for PolyGram Filmed Entertainment but really only wanted to buy the ITC library, which was put together by the late Lord Lew Grade.

Michael Green, the Carlton chairman, said yesterday the ITC library "fits perfectly with our growing collection of television programmes and films".

A key part of Carlton's strategy has been to accumulate programme rights and its library already includes the Rank, Romulus, Rohauer and Korda collections.

Carlton said the new library, expected to have sales of about £8 million to £10 million a year, would be at least earnings-enhancing in the current financial year.

Carlton's annual report, published yesterday, showed Mr Green's salary increased by £55,000 to £550,000 in the year to September. His total remuneration rose from £558,000 to £658,000, including a £57,000 bonus.

The next highest paid director was June de Moller, who is retiring as group managing director, with total remuneration of £351,000.

Body Shop hit by poor sales

By Matthew Barbour

BODY SHOP, the cosmetics retailer, yesterday became the latest victim of disappointing high street sales, when it gave warning that Christmas trading in the UK would put a dent in full-year profits.

The company said that like-for-like sales in the ten weeks to January 2 were down 2 per cent. There had been a 6 per cent decline in the UK and a 9 per cent decline in America.

Patrick Gournay, chief executive, also revealed that he would be announcing long-awaited plans for an overhaul of the group on Tuesday, prompting speculation of a carve-up of its US operations.

City analysts slashed their full-year profit forecasts from £31.5 million to as low as £25 million.

Mr Gournay said the slowdown in UK sales reflected the wider slowdown in retailing over the holiday period and that sales in Europe, the Far East and Canada were improving. However, sales in Asia remained on a downward slope, though a 9 per cent drop in sales represented an improvement on recent double-digit decreases.

Worldwide, Body Shop saw sales rise by 1 per cent in the ten weeks to January 2 and by 3 per cent over the preceding 44 weeks. "The poor performance in the US will be offset by our cost-reduction scheme," promised Mr Gournay.

Still optimistic at Debenhams

By Matthew Barbour

STRONG sales of gifts and non-clothing products and a decision to delay discounts until December 27 helped Debenhams, the department store group, to withstand the worst of the high street gloom over Christmas.

The group said that in the 20 weeks to January 16 like-for-like sales, excluding sales from new store space, were down 2.5 per cent on the previous year.

However it added that the figures would have been considerably worse without a 30 per cent jump in Christmas gift sales as well as strong growth in designer lines. Total sales were ahead by 1.4 per cent.

Peter Jarvis, the chairman, said: "The retail trading environment remains challenging and it is difficult to predict how it will develop over the next few months. However, we remain confident with our well-established and proven strategy."

Debenhams was demerged from Burton Group, now Arcadia, a year ago.

Arcadia, which includes clothing chains such as Top Shop, Dorothy Perkins, Principles and Racing Green, will release its own trading statement tomorrow.

Investors reacted positively to the news and shares of Debenhams yesterday closed up 3 per cent at 350½p.



Boost for Energis on the eve of promotion

THE City institutions have got themselves in a mess over **Energis**, up 132½p to £16.55. National Grid is selling up to 75 million shares in order to drop its stake below 50 per cent.

Brokers were testing the water ahead of the placing yesterday. Once it is complete, Energis will be catapulted into the top 100 companies where it will be valued at £3.7 billion.

Unfortunately, most institutions do not have anywhere near the weighting in the shares they would require for a blue chip. The price looks set to climb higher in the short term. **National Grid** rose 17½p to 545½p.

Share prices generally went into reverse, worried by the latest rise in Brazilian interest rates and unnerved by suggestions that the latest inflation numbers had undermined the prospect of another cut in domestic rates by the Bank of England.

Early losses on Wall Street left prices in London deep in the red although UK shares closed above their lows. The FTSE 100 index lost an early lead but managed to stay above the 6,000 level. It closed 96.3 down at 6,027.6. Turnover again exceeded more than a billion shares with the FTSE 250 index losing 29.2 at 4,874.6.

Brokers and fund managers expressed a degree of caution over the **British Aerospace** acquisition of GEC's Marconi defence arm for £7.7 billion. BAe was the worst performer among the top 100 with the price losing 68p at 435½p, while GEC shed 31p at 546½p.

Now the speculators are tipping GEC to bid for **Racal Electronics**, up 18p at 386p. There has been plenty of speculation in Racal shares in recent months with followers convinced that outgoing chairman Sir Ernest Harrison is ready to go out on a high note.

This week's gloomy trading update from Nestlé could have an impact on rival **Unilever**, 5½p easier at 648p. The Swiss group reported signs of a slowdown in its main markets during the fourth quarter.

Cautious comments by HSBC Securities, the broker, about prospects left **Diageo** 11½p down at 670½p. It has reiterated its "sell" recommendation and set a target price for the shares of 540p. There was big turnover in merger candidate **Lasmo** with the price receding 3½p to 103p as several large lines of stock went through the market. They included two parcels of 7.6 million at 9.16 million at 102p. By the close of business a total of 20.6 million had been traded. **Enterprise Oil**, which is merging with Lasmo, eased 4½p to 255p.

Hopes of a bid drove **House of Fraser** up 15½p to 88p. City speculators say the department stores group could go the same way as rival Sears, unchanged at 348½p, which is facing a contested bid from a consortium headed by retailer Philip Green. Both companies have several things in common — they have Phillips & Drew as a major shareholder and have seen their share price under pressure.

Phillips & Drew is also playing a big role in the fate of **Mirror Group**, ½p dearer at 206½p. It has rejected a cash bid of 200p from Regional Independent Media and would prefer to back an all-share offer from **Trinity International**, 1p lighter at 431½p.

Body Shop retreated 4p to 85p in the wake of its profits warning. Brokers, who had already cut their numbers after a gloomy trading update in October, had the red pencils out again. SG Securities is cutting its profits forecast for the current year from £31.5 million to £28 million.

Selling pressure also left **Boots** 43p down at 887p as BT Alex Brown, the broker, cut its profit forecast from £593 million to £554 million blaming a sluggish Christmas.

Shares of AIM-listed **On-Line** soared a further 39p to a peak of 172½p as the clamour for Internet providers showed few signs of subsiding. The price has now risen more than tenfold in less than two weeks.

Over on AIM, the high-tech buyers were chasing **Virtual Internet**. It follows the reverse takeover of Charriol, which was suspended at 117½p in November. The price touched a peak of 382½p before closing at 311½p, a rise of 194p.

The bulls are falling over themselves to pick up more shares in **Zergo Holdings**, 162½p dearer at 702½p. The information and technology specialist clinched two separate deals with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountant, and Intel, the microchip manufacturer.

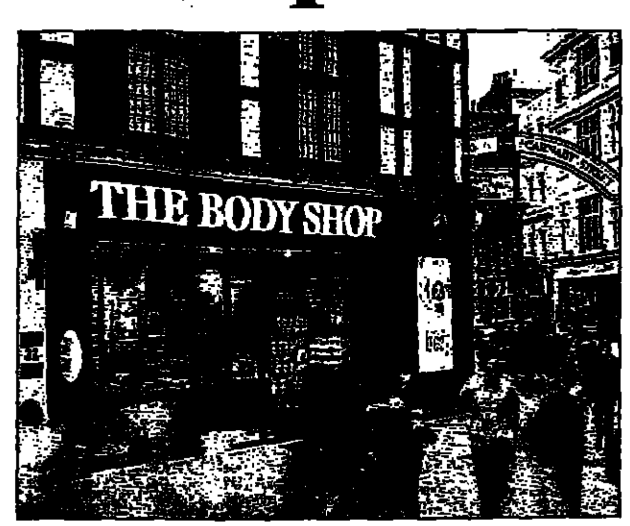
Senior Engineering was an early casualty losing 6p at 99p as one seller unloaded a line of 1.17 million shares at 97p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The prospect of another cut in interest rates suffered a setback after news of an unexpected rise in the underlying inflation rate. The bond market gave up an early lead with rate-sensitive, shorter-dated issues suffering heaviest losses as prices closed mixed.

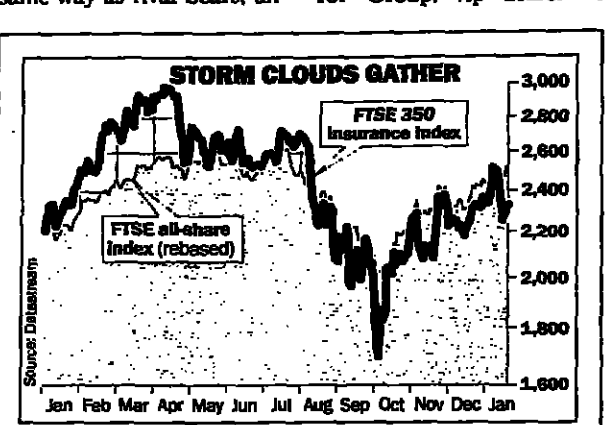
In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 5p to £119.31 as a total of 31,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 32p at £151.30, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 17p down at £107.73.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Caution on Brazil and profit-taking in the banking sector forces shares lower in morning trading. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 88.06 at 9,252.49.



Body Shop retreated 4p to 85p as brokers cut their forecasts for the current year in the wake of a profits warning



THERE was a mixed response in the insurance sector to another round of profit downgrades.

CGU fell 30p to 881½p as Morgan Stanley Dean Witter cut its forecast of operating profits for 1998 from £562 million to £500 million, blaming bad weather and higher claims.

Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, has also reduced its forecast by 19 per cent to £500 million. Both Charterhouse and Morgan Stanley have taken their red pencils to profit forecasts for Royal & SunAlliance, up 5¼p at 481¾p. They have cut from £470 million to £382 million and from £419 million to £381 million respectively.

CGU and RSA both reported a profits downturn at the nine-month stage in November, which prompted a revision of profit numbers in the sector.

Allied Zurich retreated 14¼p to 915½p, but Guardian Royal Exchange was steady at 348¾p still awaiting terms, thought to be of about 390p a share, from AXA, the French insurer.

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9252.49 (−88.06)
S&P Composite	1239.32 (−3.94)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	13770.44 (−34.62)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10280.11 (−112.43)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	548.88 (+4.67)
Sydney:	
AO	2855.8 (+25.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5073.15 (+22.75)
Singapore:	
Straits	Closed
Brussels:	
BEL20	3478.72 (−7.63)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4115.99 (−35.69)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1442.30 (−8.60)
London:	
FT 30	3490.5 (−67.3)
FTSE 100	6027.6 (−96.3)
FTSE 250	4874.6 (−29.2)
FTSE 350	2832.1 (−41.0)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2792.23 (−26.25)
FTSE All-Share	2730.73 (−37.96)
FTSE Non Financials	2798.77 (−44.80)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157.24 (+0.18)
FTSE Govt Secs	116.13 (+0.03)
Bargains	83477
SEAQ Volume	1071.7m
US$	1.6583 (+0.0068)
Euro	0.6999 (−0.0023)
Exchange Index	99.9 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

AIM VCT	100	...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	93	...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	97½	− 1½
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	121½	...
Five Arrs Uts Cv Ln 2040	106¾	− 2¼
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108½	+ ¼
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	94¾	− ½
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100	...
Virtual Internet	311½	...
Willington	77½	...
Yeoman II Equity Units	98½	...
Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap	5¼	...
Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc	95	...
Yeoman II Zero Div Pf	115	...

EMAP n/p (875)	205	− 25
Recognition Systems n/p (9)	3¼	− ½

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Zergo	702½	+162½	+ 30.0
Wood (Arthur)	92½	+ 17½	+ 23.3
Hse of Fraser	88	+ 15½	+ 21.3
Network Tech	30	+ 4½	+ 17.6
Utd Inds	47½	+ 5	+ 11.7
Psion	726½	+ 75½	+ 11.5
Oxford Molecular	44	+ 4	+ 10.0
JBA Hldgs	77½	+ 7	+ 9.9
El Data Prc	68½	+ 6	+ 9.6
Clarke T	131½	+ 11½	+ 9.5
Fenner	102½	+ 8½	+ 9.0
Energis	1655	+132½	+ 8.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Br Aerospace	425½	− 68	− 13.7
Dialog	74	− 10	− 11.9
Torotrak	67½	− 8	− 10.5
Aspen Grp	44	− 5	− 10.2
Nord Anglia	153½	− 16½	− 9.7
Br Borneo	102	− 10½	− 9.3
BCO Technologies	71½	− 7	− 8.9
Vodafone	1123	−102½	− 8.3
Arcadia Group	134	− 12	− 8.2
Calm Energy	68½	− 6	− 8.0
RJB	56	− 4½	− 7.4
Computerland UK	167½	− 12½	− 6.9
Calderburn	54½	− 4	− 6.8
Orange	1000½	− 71	− 6.6
Telspec	49½	− 3½	− 6.6
City Centre Rest	72	− 5	− 6.4
Electrocompnts	328	− 22	− 6.2
Hanson	421¾	− 27	− 6.0
NWP Intl	160	− 10	− 5.8

Grid locked in by growth

IT IS all go for the National Grid. As the electricity delivery firm waits for the regulatory go-ahead on its planned £2.7 billion acquisition of New England Electricity System (NEES), it reveals plans to raise more than £1 billion from selling a chunk of Energis, the telecoms company it created from nothing in 1993 to be worth about £4 billion now.

Grid had always intended to sell down its Energis interest — it currently owns 75 per cent. It said last year it would sell within three to five years but the bonanza in telecoms shares — fuelled by the favourable reception of the Vodafone/AirTouch merger — has given Grid the opportunity to move more quickly. Grid locks in some profits from Energis in selling down its stake now. But the structure of the sale means Grid will benefit if Energis shares continue their dizzy dance. The disposal will come in two parts: one offering of ordinary shares and one of mandatorily exchangeable bonds. The bonds will deliver shares at an amount depending on the market price.

The company is keen to separate its overseas expansion plans from the Energis cash raising. Its expansion plans may not be dependent on releasing value from Energis but it still gives Grid additional strength in its campaign to build its US and Latin American portfolio of businesses. A £500 million deal could soon appear above the horizon and Grid is also committed to pumping £200 million into a consortium that is developing Brazil's telecoms network.

But Grid's US expansion has yet to be proved given the regulatory uncertainty on which the NEES purchase rests, and emerging markets bring their own problems. Only hold.

Somerfield

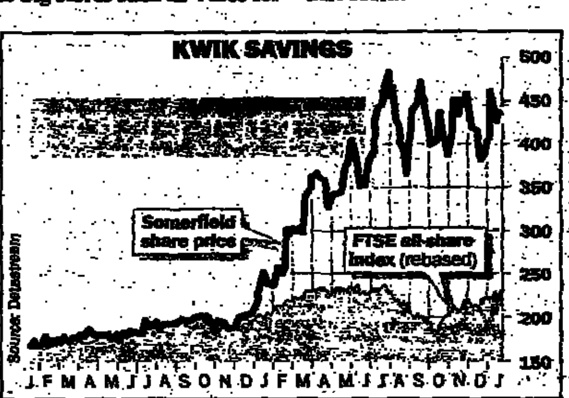
SOMERFIELD'S shareholders have seen rewards in the past but future prospects remain undermined by the association with budget quality. Buying Booker could have done irreparable damage; the earlier purchase of Kwik Save gave Somerfield serious market clout, but the firm is still outside the food retailing top flight.

The shares trade on a big discount to retailing peers. They are now on about 11 times' forecast earnings, which is about half the level of the market and a 25 per cent discount to the sector.

Yesterday's interim results did not win Somerfield friends, with enough pro-forma and restated figures to keep analysts' calculators going all day. But the pre-tax profit figure was pleasing and the savings coming in from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Budgens and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.



Prudential

PRUDENTIAL is not the company it once was. Yesterday's new business figures show that door-to-door sales of pensions and life assurance, the company's "Man from the Pru" traditioanl backbone business, were flat.

This could be alarming but in fact it is encouraging. Pru's figures reveal that sales through independent financial advisers (IFAs) now account for 60 per cent of new UK business. And IFA sales tend to be of a better quality than policies sold by tied salesforces because they are better sold, and contracts stay on the books longer.

Sir Peter Davis, chief executive, has achieved this switch towards better quality business chiefly through the £2.8 billion acquisition of Scottish Amicable in October 1997. The bravery shown trumping bids of Abbey National and AMP is paying off.

Other than shoring up the capital base Sir Peter has also had the sense to leave ScotAm alone. IFAs are touchy about recommending products from a company with competing direct salesforces.

The IFA developments are arguably more important for the financial health of Prudential than the astonishing success of Egg, its direct banking service.

The challenge for the Pru, in common with the industry, is on profit margins. But Egg and IFA sales are welcome extra string, and, with windfalls from the £5 billion orphan estate also on the cards, there is good reason to be in Pru stock.

Albert Fisher

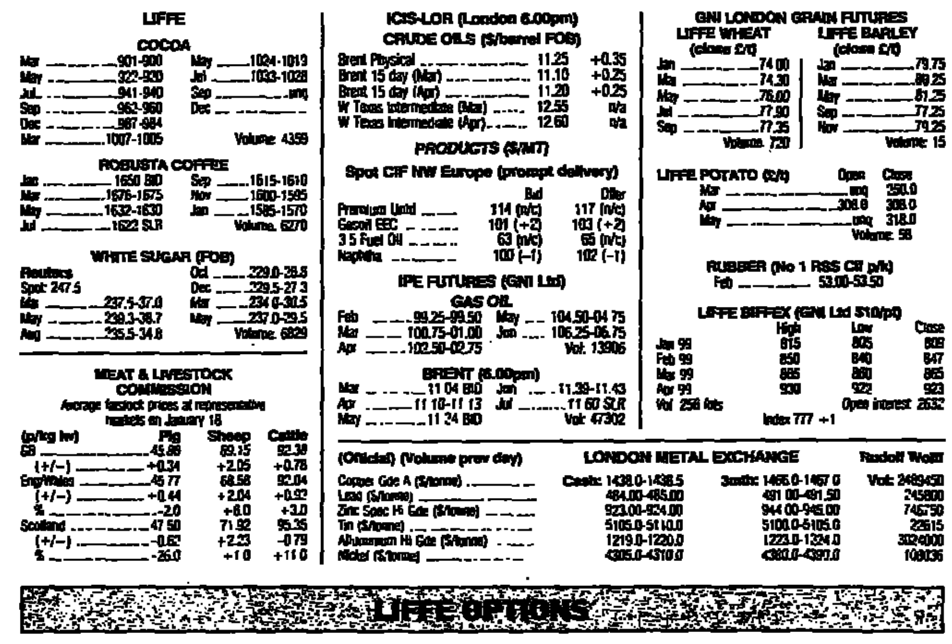
ALBERT FISHER is of more interest as a business school case study than as a serious investment. In examining Fisher's past, budding managers destined to work in deflationary marketplaces will certainly learn how not to do it. And if the company survives and prospers from here, the story will be required reading in the "back from the dead" MBA module.

Fisher lived up to its reputation as the doyen of profit warners yesterday with another depressing and frank assessment of current trading. Shareholders have come to expect bad news such as this at least once a quarter.

The bitter pill was sugared by news of the £43 million disposal. The sale price is reasonable and brings welcome relief to the company's mountainous debt position.

But debt is still uncomfortably high. Moreover, it has only been reduced with the sale of one of the firm's better businesses and it will only be reduced further if buyers can be found for more of the better assets. Terry Robinson, the new chief executive, is still a long way from making history as the comeback kid. Meanwhile, avoid the shares.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	901-900	May	1024-1019
May	922-920	Jul	1033-1028
Jul	941-940	Sep	unq
Sep	962-960	Dec	
Dec	987-984		
Mar	1007-1005		Volume: 4359

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Jan	1650 BID	Sep	1615-1610
Mar	1676-1675	Nov	1600-1585
May	1632-1630	Jan	1585-1570
Jul	1622 SLR		Volume: 6270

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	229.0-28.8
Spot: 247.5		Dec	229.5-27.3
Mar	237.5-37.0	Mar	234.0-30.5
May	239.3-38.7	May	237.0-29.5
Aug	235.5-34.8		Volume: 6829

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	45.88	69.15	92.38
(+/−)	+0.34	+2.05	+0.78
Eng/Wales	45.77	68.58	92.04
(+/−)	+0.44	+2.04	+0.92
%	−2.0	+6.0	+3.0
Scotland	47.50	71.92	95.35
(+/−)	−0.62	+2.23	−0.79
%	−26.0	+1.0	+11.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	11.25	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Mar)	11.10	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Apr)	11.20	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	12.55	n/a
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	12.60	n/a

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	114 (n/c)	117 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	101 (+2)	103 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	63 (n/c)	65 (n/c)
Naphtha	100 (−1)	102 (−1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	99.25-99.50	May	104.50-04.75
Mar	100.75-01.00	Jun	106.25-06.75
Apr	102.50-02.75		Vol: 13906

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	11.04 BID	Jun	11.39-11.43
Apr	11.10-11.13	Jul	11.60 SLR
May	11.24 BID		Vol: 47302

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	74.00	Jan	79.75
Mar	74.30	Mar	80.25
May	76.00	May	81.25
Jul	77.90	Sep	77.25
Sep	77.35	Nov	79.25
Volume: 720		Volume: 15	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	250.0
Apr	308.0	308.0
May	unq	318.0
		Volume: 58

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Feb 53.00-53.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 99	815	805	809
Feb 99	850	840	847
Mar 99	865	860	865
Apr 99	930	922	923
Vol: 256 lots			Open interest: 2632

Index 777 +1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1438.0-1438.5	1466.0-1467.0	Vol: 2489450
Lead ($/tonne)	484.00-485.00	491.00-491.50	245800
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	923.00-924.00	944.00-945.00	746750
Tin ($/tonne)	5105.0-5110.0	5100.0-5105.0	22615
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1219.0-1220.0	1223.0-1324.0	3024000
Nickel ($/tonne)	4305.0-4310.0	4380.0-4390.0	108036

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
ASDA	140	11½	19½	26	—	7½	11½
(*151½)	160	½	10½	16½	9	18	22½
Abbey Nat	1250	45½	133	167	½	80½	110½
(*1295)	1300	8	109	143½	13	115	136
Alld Dom	460	28	56	75½	—	23½	41
(*487½)	500	2	35½	57	14	42½	61½
BAA	700	23½	63	86	1	34	52½
(*1073)	1114	½	42½	—	44	87½	—
Vodafone	1100	27½	136½	188¾	7	101½	141½
(*1120)	1150	5	113½	166	35	128	168
Woolwich	300	27½	40	45½	—	10	15½
(*327½)	330	2½	23	29½	5½	23½	29½
Zeneca	2700	74½	265	367	3½	177	244½
(*2772½)	2800	11	218½	320	42	227½	295
Tesco	167	19	—	—	2½	—	—
(*182½)	183	8	—	—	8½	—	—
Utd Bisc	171	21	—	—	3	—	—
(*188)	193	8	—	—	12	—	—

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Jan	Puts May	Puts Aug
AlldLeic	800	35½	85½	109½	½	49	58½

[illegible]

January 19 Total: 3343 Calls: 1629 Puts: 1714

January 19 Total: 1849 Calls: 722 Puts: 1127

*Underlying security price

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	119.50	119.77	119.04	119.31	40132
Previous open interest 104360	Jun 99				120.11	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				117.43	0
Previous open interest 0						
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.85	0
Previous open interest 63	Jun 99				108.85	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 99	115.03	115.25	114.98	115.09	9377
Previous open interest 42995						
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 99	129.96	130.36	129.78	130.04	2878
	Jun 99				129.14	0
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.540	94.550	94.420	94.450	50778
	Jun 99	94.910	94.920	94.770	94.800	69163
Previous open interest 1092084	Sep 99	95.110	95.110	94.960	95.005	51456
Three Mth Euromark	Apr 99				97.065	0
Previous open interest 2092469	Jun 99	97.210	97.210	97.150	97.170	140319
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 99	97.020	97.050	97.020	97.040	2284
Previous open interest 494452	Jun 99	97.200	97.200	97.160	97.170	710
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.670	98.700	98.630	98.680	13457
Previous open interest 174344	Jun 99	98.540	98.600	98.530	98.570	4774
Three Mth Euro	Apr 99				97.065	0
Previous open interest 11295	Jun 99				97.170	0
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6105.0	6165.9	5995.0	6027.0	23170
Previous open interest 190198	Jun 99	6111.0	6167.0	6111.0	6068.0	229

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7½ Low 5¼ Week fixed: 5¾

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅜; 3 mth 5[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth 5[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5½, close 7					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.90	n/a	4.90	4.90	4.90
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	3-2[illegible]	3-2[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Bullion: Open: $287.00-287.30 Close: $285.50-286.00 High: $287.00-287.50 Low: $285.50-286.00 AM: $287.30 PM: $286.50

Krugerrand: $286.50-288.50 (£173.00-175.00)

Platinum: $353.00 (£212.65) Silver: $5.09 (£3.075) Palladium: $322.50 (£194.30)

Mkt Rates for January 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.591-10.647	10.621-10.635	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Euro	1.4280-1.4300	1.4282-1.4297	0.16-0.19ds	0.44-0.47ds
Montreal	2.5261-2.5405	2.5329-2.5361	0.22-0.14pr	0.49-0.35pr
New York	1.6526-1.6604	1.6580-1.6590	0.15-0.13pr	0.30-0.27pr
Oslo	12.305-12.348	12.305-12.328	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	12.842-12.970	12.842-12.865	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	188.17-189.21	188.43-188.57	1-[illegible]pr	2½-2[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.2749-2.2872	2.2796-2.2826	1⅛-1pr	2½-2[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

Australia	1.5673-1.5698
Canada	1.5262-1.5272
Denmark	6.4145-6.4185
Euro	1.1593-1.1597
Hong Kong	7.7480-7.7485
Japan	113.72-113.77
Malaysia	3.7900-3.8000
Norway	7.4955-7.4455
Singapore	1.6810-1.6820
Sweden	7.7649-7.7749
Switzerland	1.3785-1.3795

Argentina peso*	1.6580-1.6603
Australia dollar	2.5987-2.6044
Bahrain dinar	0.6155-0.6297
Brazil real*	2.0002-2.0026
Cyprus pound	0.8155-0.8343
Euro	1.4273-1.4284
Finland markka	8.4025-8.5419
Greece drachma	455.50-466.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.8449-12.8543
India rupee	69.40-71.00
Indonesia rupiah	13890.00-14190.00
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4935-0.5049
Malaysia ringgit	6.2819-6.3023
New Zealand dollar	3.0979-3.1018
Pakistan rupee	80.05 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9425-6.0799
Singapore dollar	2.7861-2.7886
S Africa rand (com)	9.8330-10.0518
U A E dirham	5.9950-6.1336

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

3i	1,597	Legal & Gn	1,033
ASDA Gp	8,420	Lloyds TSB	7,961
Abbey Nat	4,680	LucasVarity	2,173
Alliance & Leic	879	Marks Spr	10,722
Allied Dom	3,823	Nat Grid	27,970
Allied Zrch	2,911	Nat Power	2,784
Amvescap	2,322	NatWst Bk	3,132
AB Foods	749	Norwich Un	3,016
Bk of Scot	5,516	Orange	14,132
BAA	3,486	P & O	2,704
Barclays	6,876	Pearson	1,084
Bass	1,666	PowerGen	8,074
BG	6,804	Prudential	4,814
Billiton	4,104	Railtrack	2,679
BOC	686	Reckitt Col	516
Boots	2,608	Reed Intl	3,544
BP Amoco	18,010	Rentokil	7,494
BAe	35,302	Reuters	3,478
BA	1,765	Rio Tinto	2,336
Brt Am Tob	3,185	Rolls Royce	3,145
Brit Energy	1,883	Ryl & Sun	7,463
BSkyB	5,969	Ryl Bk Sct	2,708
BT	14,457	Safeway	3,524
BTR	9,807	Sainsbury	2,609
CGU	5,166	Schroders	174
COLT Telecom	2,811	Scot & New	2,942
Cable Wire	9,180	Scot Sthn Engy	2,898
Cadbury	2,041	Scot Power	5,032
Carlton Cms	2,873	Securicor	1,164
Centrica	9,480	Sevn Trent	408
Compass Gp	1,883	Shell Trans	11,443
Diageo	3,920	Siebe	30,235
Dixons Grp	2,414	Smiths Ind	317
EMI	961	SmKl Bch	13,076
Gallaher	1,881	Stagecoach	5,592
Gen Elec	14,615	Std Chartd	4,885
GKN	2,616	Sun Life	370
Glaxo Well	8,244	TeleWest	27,377
Granada	2,169	Tesco	15,931
GUS	4,252	Thames W	698
GRE	4,824	Tomkins	10,318
Hanson	1,255	Unilever	5,968
ICI	1,966	Utd News	2,065
Imperial Tob	2,120	Utd Utilities	1,485
HSBC	3,658	Vodafone	61,795
Halifax	2,062	WPP	1,857
Hays	758	Whitbread	1,489
Kingfisher	2,086	Williams	1,233
Ladbroke	3,112	Woolwich	2,540
Land Secs	1,284	Zeneca	1,515

	Jan 19 midday	Jan 15 close		Jan 19 midday	Jan 15 close		Jan 19 midday	Jan 15 close
AEP	[illegible]	47	Duke Energy	[illegible]	[illegible]	Occidental Pet	17[illegible]	17[illegible]
AMP Inc	51[illegible]	52	Du Pont	[illegible]	[illegible]	Office Depot	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR Corp	64	64[illegible]	Eastman Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]	Oracle	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	87[illegible]	84[illegible]	Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]	Oryx Energy Co	13	12[illegible]
Abbott Labs	[illegible]	47[illegible]	Eaton Corp	[illegible]	71[illegible]	Owens Corning	[illegible]	[illegible]
Adobe Systems	[illegible]	[illegible]	Edison Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	PPG Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

Little time left for a recession



Those of us old enough to remember the last two British recessions with acute discomfort are unfazed about the current economic slowdown.

For this columnist, the early 1980s recession coincided with my departure from university and entering the jobs market for the first time. I remember deciding not to read newspapers for the last six months of my university life because headlines about mass unemployment were worrying enough to put me off all thoughts of Shelley, Blake and Virgil. The next recession will forever stick in the mind because of the catastrophic rises in interest rates that were needed to stop the preceding boom at a time when many people of my age were borrowed up to the hilt in our desire to become part of Margaret Thatcher's home-owning democracy. Between the day in the late 1980s when I signed my mortgage contract and the first monthly payment, interest rates had risen alarmingly by 2 per cent.

It is hard to be scared this time around. For all the doom-laden talk of recession and high-profile job losses, employment is at a record, vacancies are only just below their recent historic highs and unemployment has only recently begun to edge higher.

Interest rate movements have been decidedly modest in recent times, ensuring that consumers have not been ambushed as they were last time round. In this cycle, rates moved from a trough of 5.25 per cent in February 1994 to a peak last June of 7.50 per cent, a range of only 2.25 per cent if rates fall no further. This compares with the previous cycle in which rates bottomed out at 7.50 per cent (the peak this time) in May 1988 and doubled to 15 per cent in October 1989, a range of 7.50 per cent.

Newspaper headlines, industrial confidence surveys, retailers' press releases may all be as dramatically woeful as they have been on the brink of past recessions but all the germane economic indicators tell a story of much greater stability, far less economic imbalance, a much shallower cycle and a relative lack of macroeconomic policy mistakes or misjudgments by consumers and businesses.

Take all this evidence together and it is difficult to mount a convincing argument that Britain is in for a recession severe enough to be given the name. Indeed, unless events turn very nasty overseas and remain nasty, a case can be made for a shallow, short-lived downturn or, as the Treasury and the Bank are guessing, none at all.

One of the biggest changes from past cycles is the behaviour of inflation. Despite yesterday's news of a blip up in underlying inflation — due partly to bad weather boosting food prices and partly because of furniture retailers raising prices (and losing sales as a result) — inflation is extremely tame compared with previous cycles. In the late 1980s, inflation reached 10 per cent. During this cycle, inflation has hovered between 3 and 4 per cent.

Much has been made of the "consumer boom" in 1997 on the back of demutualisation windfall gains. But consumer spending has been positively anaemic despite the windfall billions. Consumer spending has grown by an average of 2.8 per cent a year since the trough of the recession in the second quarter of 1992. This compares with a growth rate of 8.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1988.

Let us briefly look at the housing market, so crucial to the 1980s' boom and bust. According to the Halifax, house price inflation peaked in 1997 at 7 per cent. The Nationwide put the peak at 13 per cent. Neither of these figures compares with the 35 per cent increase in house prices recorded in the year to October 1988.

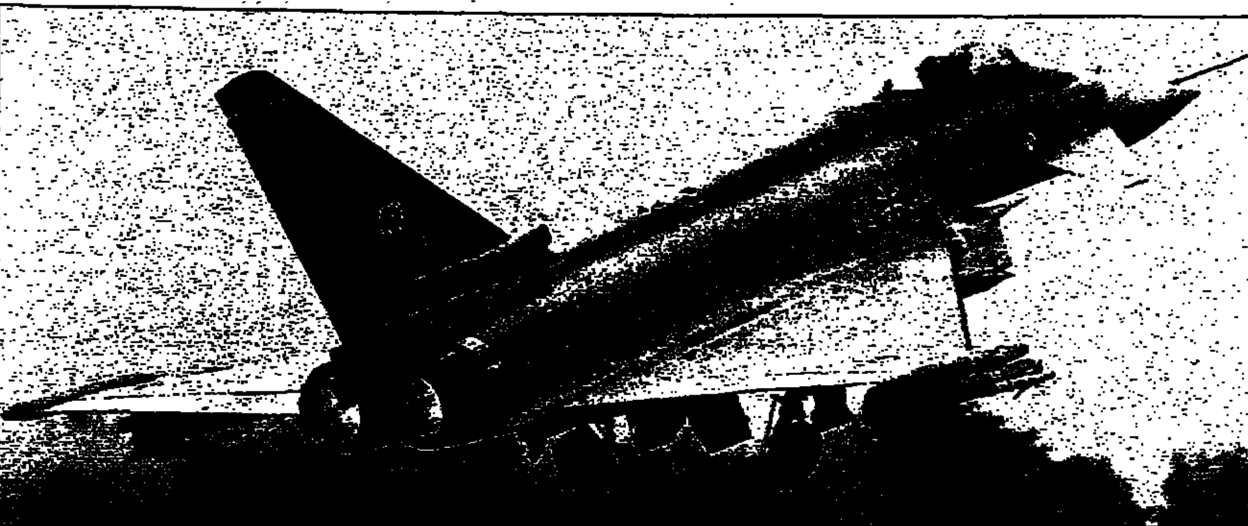
Another measure of the relative health of the economy is the financial position of households and of companies. Both are far less indebted than they have been at the onset of previous recessions. In the late 1980s, the personal sector racked up debts worth 3 per cent of gross domestic product. By the third quarter of last year, the personal sector was still running a surplus, albeit a relatively small one of 1.1 per cent of GDP. Non-financial corporations were carrying a financial deficit of 2 per cent of GDP in the year ending in the third quarter of 1998. This compares with a deficit of some 5 per cent of GDP at the start of 1990.

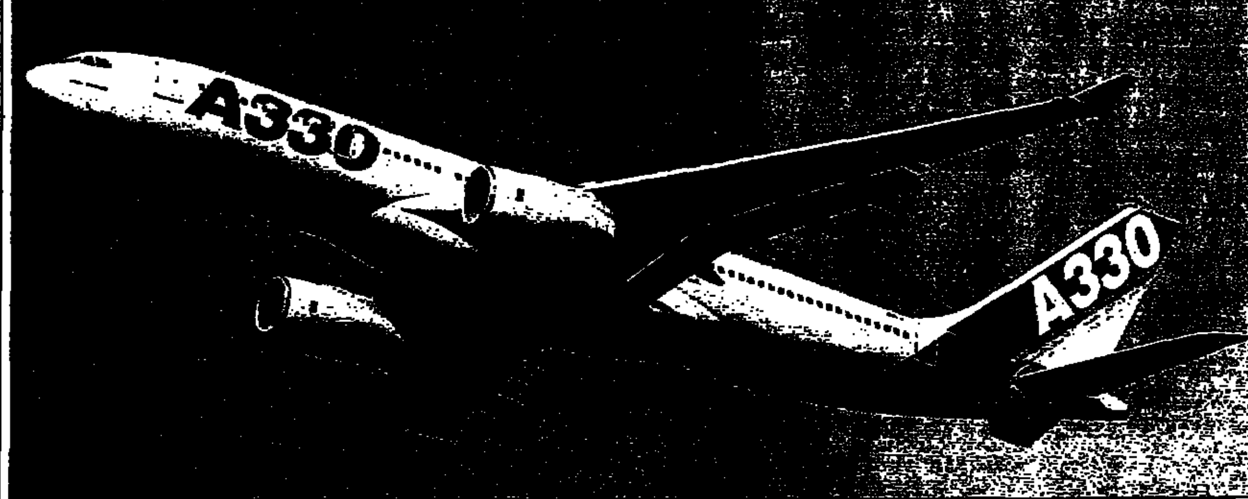
It is not just people and companies who have behaved far less profligately in the current cycle than in the previous one — scared no doubt by the mess they found themselves in when interest rates doubled. Since 1992, successive Chancellors have proved to be careful stewards of the public finances. The culmination of years of Conservative tax increases, tough control on public spending by Gordon Brown (and, of course, growth after sterling was allowed to float) has been that the budget deficit has been cut from some £50 billion at the peak to a likely surplus this year and balance in 1999-2000.

So here are some reasons to be cheerful about the year ahead. Without a boom (in growth or credit), there need not be a bust. With the public finances headed for balance, with inflation low and with sterling floating freely, rates can be cut by as much as is needed. Consumer spending, which is so important a component of British GDP, would have to implode to cause a recession and that is not happening. As Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research put it recently: "The jeremiahs need to remember that sales of mobile phones and foreign holidays are booming and that sales data from Marks & Spencer and John Lewis are not the whole story."

On Friday we will see the first snapshot of fourth-quarter GDP with the City forecasting growth of 0.1 per cent. Given small signs of a recovery in business and consumer confidence, there may be no time to squeeze in even a technical recession before the rebound everyone expects in the second half.

Europe cries foul as New BAe emerges





The Eurofighter2000, produced jointly by BAe and Dasa of Germany, Casa of Spain and Italy's Finmeccanica and the Airbus A330, which BAe developed with Aérospatiale of France, Dasa and Casa, are examples of how European co-operation can work

Adam Jones reports on the reaction to the 'Anglo-British' deal

It is easy to feel sorry for France. Badgered by Britain and Germany, the French Government has swallowed its pride and started the long process of privatising Aérospatiale, the aircraft company that dreamt up Concorde, to make the business a more acceptable partner in pan-European mergers.

Fully aware of the strikes that can follow attempts to overhaul state industries in France, it also privately signalled that it would cut its stake in Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics group, to as little as 5 per cent.

And then what happens? For all their rhetoric about cross-border deals, the two big UK defence companies, British Aerospace and GEC's Marconi Electronic Systems, produce an "Anglo-British" solution: an £8 billion merger that would have been condemned as a backward step had it happened in France.

The French are not alone in being concerned about the perceived insularity of the deal. When Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the chief executive of GEC, and Sir Richard Evans, the chairman of British Aerospace, saw Tony Blair on Monday, the Prime Minister is understood to have reiterated the Government's desire for a link with continental Europe.

Then there are the Germans. The most logical continental partner for British Aerospace has always been Dasa, the aerospace arm of DaimlerChrysler. Talks have been stopping and starting since 1995 and the two sides came close to an agreement before Christmas.

Yesterday, GEC was at pains to say that it did not gatecrash these talks. Indeed, GEC, BAe and Dasa sat round the negotiating table on at least one occasion and examined the case for a three-way merger.

BAe had trouble overcoming the German fear of Dasa being swamped by a much-larger British company. New British Aerospace — the expanded company that will be formed if the Marconi merger goes through — still wants to link with Dasa, even though the size mismatch will be much worse after the merger.

Yesterday, an angry Dasa gave warning that the BAe-Marconi deal "will make balanced European horizontal mergers such as Dasa-BAe impossible and create an obstacle to European integration".

Sir Richard Evans, who will continue to head New BAe, realises that he will have to smooth many ruffled feathers. He admits that the merger will make BAe seem even more threatening to Dasa: "Our job is to overcome these obstacles."

Dasa may get the hump and look to merge with Thomson-CSF, which has emerged from the Marconi bid talks looking rather bruised.

GEC used Thomson to extract a full price from BAe. It worked. BAe will have to face accusations that it overpaid for Marconi.

Thomson negotiators fought until the last minute, coming back to London and raising their offer for the GEC arm on Monday, but Lord Simpson batted this away before heading to the City offices of Warburg Dillon Read to close the deal with BAe.

As long as the French State keeps a stake in Thomson, it will find mergers difficult. Will the state let factories close in the South of France to realise cost savings? DaimlerChrysler may prefer to merge Dasa with another rather than test the French resolve. It could draw on Chrysler's American contacts to smooth a path towards a US link.

It may be the case that New BAe will strike smaller deals, similar to its tie-up with Saab of Sweden, while the French and Germans lick their wounds.

It is in talks with both Casa of Spain and Finmeccanica of Italy. Casa is a partner on the Airbus project. This could complicate things even further with Aérospatiale and Dasa, the other Airbus companies.

Finmeccanica, another relative minnow in the defence industry pond, may be a more likely BAe target. By buying Marconi Electronic Systems, BAe will gain Finmeccanica's Alenia Difesa arm as a joint venture partner. Marconi signed a deal with it last year to combine land and naval radar businesses, giving an annual turnover of £1 billion. BAe has been in separate talks with the Italians about greater co-operation on military aircraft projects.

Ultimately, John Weston, the chief executive of BAe, is adamant that European consolidation will end with a transatlantic merger. However, he says such a link is several years away. The US Department of Defense has given no clear guidance to its defence companies about the desirability of involving foreign firms in US arms manufacture. After the debacle of Lockheed Martin's aborted merger with Northrop Grumman, the US industry is being very careful.

So there is no short-term escape from the need to get along with European neighbours. BAe realises this. All of the forelock-tugging skills it developed buttering up wealthy Arab nations will now have to be deployed in Europe.

Of course, on a purely tribal level, the naughtiness of a BAe-Marconi merger provokes an undercurrent of guilty glee in Britain, especially among those fatalists who believed the French would fight dirty and end up running the show.

In that sense, the deal is like a member of the England football team scoring with an obvious handball in a World Cup quarter-final against Argentina. New British Aerospace will now have to defend its lead, while making sure the other players don't walk off the pitch in disgust.

On-off relationship ends in marriage of convenience

Politics and personalities stopped Britain from creating a world-scale defence and aerospace combine more than 20 years, enabling France and Germany to catch up. In the 1970s, Arnold Weinstock's GEC owned half of the British Aircraft Corporation as well as Marconi, the nucleus of the new group. But Tony Benn nationalised BAC to form part of British Aerospace in 1976, the last big state takeover in Britain.

For the next two decades, Lord Weinstock manoeuvred to regain what he regarded as his property, even though he never liked the civil aircraft side. Having seen BAC sequestered for far less than market value, however, he was fatally reluctant to pay much to get it back.

A chance came to buy the whole of British Aerospace in 1984, when it was semi-privatised. Sir Peter Laister, leading rival Thorn-EMI into a risky buying spree, opened bid talks with BAe, then headed by the mild-mannered but worldly Sir Austin Pearce.

GEC had rival talks but neither made a bid. Lord Weinstock was on poor terms with the Thatcher Government, including Norman Tebbit, Trade Secretary, who saw him as the epitome of whingeing corporatism. GEC thought it would not be allowed to become so powerful a supplier to the Ministry of Defence. Relations between the companies grew worse under the next BAe regime, which teamed Sir Roland Smith, the ebullient marketing expert, with Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, the chief executive. Sir Roland had little respect for the management style of the ageing Weinstock. Egos collided. GEC was seen as an aggressive predator. Sir Roland set about turning BAe into a giant in its own right, buying Rover among much else to construct a British equivalent of Daimler-Benz or Fiat. But lack of long-term finance led to a cash crisis when the slump of 1991-92 brought big losses on civil aircraft.


Weinstock: missed opportunity

Again, GEC had a chance to pounce. In September 1992, a rights issue was floundering, Sir Roland Smith had gone, BAe's board was in disarray and its market had shrunk to £440 million. But Weinstock lost his prize by refusing to risk GEC's funds on such an ailing outfit. New men at BAe were not inclined to sell it for a pittance. The moment was soon gone, one of the great lost opportunities of corporate history.

Sir Dick Evans, who did so much to transform BAe into a £9.5 billion company in six years, got on better with GEC but understandably did not want to be junior partner. Issues of executive pecking order are thought to have dogged on-off talks over a defence merger since 1995. It was not made easier when GEC came under the leadership of Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, who had run Rover for BAe when Sir Dick was chief executive but left to be top dog at Lucas. Only a government *volte face* under Tony Blair and the threat of being picked off separately seem finally to have brought them together.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

No Mayo



ONE man not asked his opinion of the GEC decision to merge its Marconi business with British Aerospace was Lord Weinstock, still in occupancy at GEC's shrunken headquarters and chairman emeritus.

Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, his replacement as chief executive, said Weinstock's post these days was not a hands-on one and the man who largely created GEC was not party to the discussions. "I'm sure he may be trying to contact me as we speak," said Simpson cheekily.

My man at yesterday's briefing was startled to see that Weinstock's notoriously parsimonious streak lingers on, though. John Mayo, the sometimes combative finance director of GEC, was spotted carefully inspecting the complimentary pastries beforehand.

Then the real Mayo walked in. His eery lookalike is in charge of the catering at Warburg Dillon Read.


"I'm collecting money to support The Body Shop"

A MEDIA-WATCHER was asked, in the light of the rash of reports predicting his downfall, to give a rating to David Montgomery, Mirror Group's chief executive. "About 60 per cent," came the reply. "He's very good at cost-cutting." And what about future strategy? "That's the 40 per cent."

Light sleep

MICHAEL FOOT, head of banking supervision at the Financial Services Authority, was telling of how he was forced to sleep at work over the new year because of the euro. One problem: the FSA, like many modern offices, has one of those automatic lighting systems that work in the presence of a warm body. Asleep or not.

So he had to kip down in the boardroom, the only place you can switch the light off. He will be there next New Year's Eve, too, he expects. The only advantage this time is the magnificent view the FSA's Canary Wharf offices have of the Millennium Dome.

Offline

IT WAS kind of Barclays Corporate Banking to invite a colleague for a ride around London in a stretch limo drinking champagne while testing "the world's first ever remote access business electronic banking product which can be accessed from a fully-mobile sub-notebook computer" (read: direct banking from a laptop).

Alas, it became apparent, as the limo moved off, that the device didn't work. Barclays suggested they parked and tried; my colleague said no, it was supposed to be mobile.

They drove on. At last the device crackled into life, only to cut out again a few yards later. And so it went on. Still, the champagne was OK.

GLANBIA sounds like somewhere you go for a cheap holiday, but it is the latest daft corporate name dreamt up by the image consultants. It replaces the perfectly respectable Avonmore Waterford Group and joins a hall of infamy that includes Diageo, Hyder, the old Welsh Water, and Chorion.

It comes from two Gaelic words, one meaning pure — oh, look, you don't really want to know all this. But out of sheer childishness I ring Avonmore's London man and manage to persuade him it also means "pig manure" in Finnish. (It doesn't).

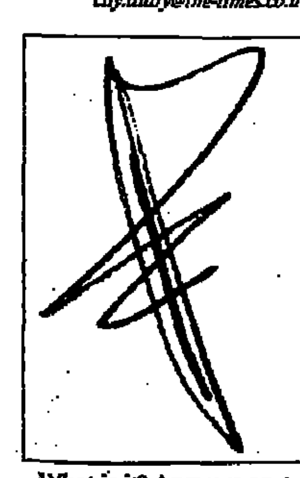
Sign off

LOOK at the picture below. Is it: a) Glanbia's new corporate logo; b) the amoeba that causes glanbia, a West African fever, or; c) your doctor's signature on a prescription to treat it?

It is the signature of David Abdoo, company secretary of Carlton, in the latest accounts. Chairman Michael Green's is little better. The only one to master joined-up writing is June de Moller, managing director. And she's retiring.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk


What is it? Answers on a postcard to Carlton

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST

[illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

Late sell-off for equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
546	365	Allied Domecq	486	+ 12	5.2	12.7
412½	291½	Bulmer (HP)	306	− 1	6.1	18.7
42½	7	Burn Stewart	14½	...	...	...
795	432	Diageo	670	− 12	3.0	20.3
800	675	Glenmorangie A	675	...	2.7	18.3
325	225	Highland Dist	260½	+ ½	4.5	11.9
244	115	Matthew Clark	242	...	6.7	8.2
58½	18½	Merydew W	28½	...	...	...
2021½	725	SA Breweries	958½	− 18½	3.0	14.4

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	893½	ABN-AMRO	1240½	− 12½	3.2	14.8
1390	860	Abbey Nat	1294	...	3.1	18.1
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	832	− 29	3.4	15.7
1232½	587½	Allied Irish	1207	+ 15	1.8	33.7
456½	293½	Aus New Z	405½	+ 3½	4.9	...
6075	3257½	Bank America	3858½	− 58	...	...
813	491	Bank Scotland	791	+ 13	1.5	19.8
1886	827	Barclays	1414	+ 9	3.4	13.0
1487½	862½	Bk of Ireland	1316½	+ 11½	2.1	21.6
2484½	1565½	Commerzbk	1948½	+ 31½	2.8	...
543½	216½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	337½	+ 6½	1.3	...
5388½	3278½	Deutsche Bk	3598½	+ 78½	1.8	...
1206½	1134½	Espirito Santo	1175	− 6½	3.2	...
531	112½	Fuji Bank Y	237½	− 4	1.9	...
2073	980	HSBC	1705	− 36	3.8	15.6
2002	937	HSBC HK	1585	− 48	4.1	14.5
1000	643½	Halifax	782½	− 18	3.9	21.6
1045	587	Irish Perm	1010	+ 15	1.8	28.3
1090	565	Lloyds TSB	832	− 1	2.8	23.9
1017½	667	Nat Aust Bk	1001½	+ 25½	3.9	...
1360	694	Nat West	1130	...	2.7	19.4
673	451½	Northern Rock	569	− 4	2.4	19.1
1140	581	Ryl Bk Scotl	1102	− 8½	2.8	15.6
1050	355	Stand Chart	811	− 14	3.0	13.0
£164½	£104½	Wells Fargo	£104½	...	1.9	...

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

Edward Fennell presents a two-page special report on the Government's annual celebration of the best training in industry

Winners reap the reward of a top workforce

A recent victim of a botched programme complained earlier this month: "Training? Who needs it? Training means spending three hours in a training room, falling asleep while being lectured at by someone about computers. Frankly, I'm very sceptical about the value of that."

And quite right, too. Training without targets or benefits is useless. The Government's annual National Training Awards, launched this week, aims to be an antidote to this kind of wasteful training. With the backing of key organisations such as the CBI, the TUC and the Institute of Personnel and Development — all of whom are represented on the judging panel — National Training Awards give formal recognition each autumn to a hundred or so organisations and a score of individuals who have engaged in "exceptionally effective training".

The award winners provide models of good practice of what can be achieved when training is well managed as a business development. This can often lead to less money being spent on training — but being spent more thoughtfully and effectively.

Training is no longer the Cinderella it once was. The massive increase in the use of information technology and the current culture of customer service and quality systems has compelled employers to invest in the skills of their workforce. It was noticeable that during the last recession (for the first time) training was not slashed by the accountants as an unnecessary in the balance sheet.

Even so, there are strong signs that while the spirit is willing, the delivery is often weak. Employers recognise the importance of training to their organisations but are still prone to lazy planning and poor preparation. Facile short cuts — notably the off-the-shelf, generic course — still provide many employers with the bulk of their training diet. The result is bland or irrelevant courses, inadequate monitoring of achievement and little, if any, follow-up. Sure, the staff have undergone training. But what have they learnt? Has their performance materially improved? All too often nobody knows, or cares.

So, despite being in their second decade, National Training Awards still have an important mission to accomplish. In their early years the awards helped to put training on the business agenda and many of Britain's best-known companies such as Rolls-Royce, British Steel and Lucas Industries have regularly appeared among the ranks of the winners. Now more than ever, their message is that training must be delivered in a planned and professional way to realise specific benefits, whether for organisations or for individuals.

One of the main ways of communicating this message is through the nationwide series of workshops and presentations organised by training and enterprise councils (Tecs) and local enterprise councils in Scotland. These workshops have become useful training exercises in their own right as they convey the underlying principles of effective training.

Cliff Ellison, the chief executive of Rochdale Tec, is a great fan of the awards. He chairs a panel that brings together 14 organisations in the North West to promote the National Training Awards and to groom entrants for success.

"Many companies are interested in the awards, attend one of our workshops and then recognise that their own training strategies won't make the grade," he says. "This gives us an opportunity to work with these organisations, to improve their training management and then, in due course, perhaps apply for an award."

Judges not only evaluate the training but also scrutinise the results in terms of business and individual performance. This may mean that it takes a year or two before concrete results come through.

Individuals are not left out of the Training Awards agenda. With a focus on those who have used training to restart their careers or overcome disabilities, the winners' stories send out the message that responsibility for training and personal development lies with individuals just as much as with their employers.

In a world of uncertain futures where nobody is owed a job for life, individual workers must be more proactive in increasing their skills and knowledge. Individual National Training Award winners tend to be exemplars of those who have "pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps" but the general message applies to us all.

But beware of the quagmire of pointless, useless training. National Training Award Winners provide a beacon of how it should be done.

● *National Training Award Workshops are being held across the North West from January through to March. For more information contact the NTA North West hotline on 01606 734385. For more information about the Awards generally contact the National Training Awards Office on 01142 593419. Entries for the 1999 awards should be received by May 14.*



Rolls-Royce is among many of Britain's better known companies to appear regularly among the ranks of winners

Slump spurred lawyer to act

NINE years ago, Brian Marson's law firm was facing ruin. He had set up Marsons in Kent in 1986 and had quickly become dependent on conveyancing — but when recession destroyed the property market, Mr Marson was deeply in debt.

"Standing still was not an option," he says. "We either went up or we went out of business. I was determined to survive."

That kind of desperation drove him to invest in training. "Though I was an experienced solicitor, I knew nothing about management," he recalls. "A one-week course taught me how to write a business plan. Since then, it has been a story of continuous progress."

Now Marsons is thriving. Over the past three years, financial turnover has increased sixfold and staff by four times. Mr Marson attributes his success equally to his investment in training and information technology.

Along the way, Brian Marson has sought external recognition of the firm's achievements. First, he achieved the quality standard ISO9000. Next, he became an Investor in People, and in 1996 he won a National Training Award.

He says: "Every time we go for an award, we learn something about ourselves. And we use the information to improve the firm."

This year Marsons will be entering again for an award. Mr Marson believes that the contribution made by training to the progress of the business warrants it. The link between IT and training is now particularly important.

With the right technology and skilled people, Marsons has automated many legal processes and the firm has now picked up slices of work from banks and housing associations of a magnitude that would have been beyond him in the early Nineties.

He adds: "There are some high-street firms that are trying to continue using typewriters — I don't see how they can survive. To succeed today, you have got to be prepared to make the investment in your staff and in technology."



High performance: business and management training has helped Scania to realise its ambitions

Investing in drivers as well as diggers makes sense at Shepherd Construction

Smart builders pass the site test

THE construction industry is bedevilled by cowboy builders, but Shepherd Construction has no such reputation — quite the reverse. Based in Yorkshire but operating nationally, Shepherd has a string of eminent clients (including, for example, Marks & Spencer) who return to the company on a regular basis.

One of Shepherd's greatest strengths is that it has a permanently employed workforce of more than 1,000. It also has a commitment to training and retaining its staff on a long-term basis.

John Foreman, the personnel director, points out that the family-owned company has a training record stretching right back to the early Sixties, when its founder, Sir Peter Shepherd, established its corporate values. That training tradition continues today under the present chairman, Paul Shepherd.

Shepherd Construction is engaged on a wide spectrum of training, ranging from Modern Apprenticeships to advanced technical and management training linked to postgraduate qualifications.

"Training is focused on our operating needs," Mr Foreman says. "It is driven by hard business objectives and we are always concerned that any training programme we are involved in, at whatever level, should produce results on the bottom line."

This practical attitude has won Shepherd two National Training Awards in recent years. "We see National Training Awards as a way of measuring ourselves against the best in the country," Mr Foreman says.

"When we win an award it is good for our pride, and also a way of showing our customers that we are concerned about the skill levels of our staff. Discriminating clients recognise the importance of that."

Mr Foreman is a keen supporter of the work done nationally by the Construction Industry Training Board to ensure that the industry's skill needs are met. But he is worried that training is not taken seriously enough in some companies.

"Many managers take far more time and care in selecting a new JCB than in ensuring that a driver is properly trained to operate it," he says. "Yet without the right training, the equipment will not repay the investment. It is important that employers should get the right balance in their priorities and appreciate how important training is — provided it is done properly."

Mr Foreman also feels that it is too easy for managers to select off-the-shelf courses without questioning whether they will be genuinely relevant in the workplace.

"National Training Awards really test the effectiveness of training," Mr Foreman says. "That is why we think they are worthwhile."

Pole position in the trucks race

Scania tailored its staff development scheme to win a second award

Graham Cramp of Scania (Great Britain) is not much given to sentiment or frippery. He has looked at a number of external awards and badges and dismissed them as irrelevant.

But he is a great fan of National Training Awards. As Scania's franchise and staff development manager, he must persuade franchisees to attend courses that help to build their business.

These franchisees are a sceptical lot — but they do respond to genuine quality.

That's why Mr Cramp was keen to gain a National Training Award as an endorsement of what he is providing.

"Our franchisees must pay to attend our courses so they need to be confident that they will get value for money. Having a National Training Award helps to demonstrate that," he says.

Scania has won National Training Awards twice in the past four years and its approach is firmly grounded in the business needs of the organisation. "Some years ago we were given the task of increasing our penetration of the trucks market from 9 per cent to 20 per cent," Mr Cramp says.

"To do that we had to increase the number of our workshops and provide excellent aftercare service. That meant training a lot of people in technical skills. But we also decided, for the first time, to offer training in business and management skills."

It is the business and management training that has helped Scania to realise its ambitions in Britain, and Mr Cramp was delighted when the programme received the ultimate stamp of approval from the National Training Awards judges.

"It was good for me and my staff. It was also good for the people coming on the course — it gave them confidence in what they would experience. And, finally, it was good for our customers because they could feel reassured about the quality of service they would receive."

Like many National Training Award winners Mr Cramp is critical of much of the training that is available on the market.

"I don't believe in quick fixes," he says. "For training to be effective it needs to be undertaken over a period of time and should ideally include a measurement of what people can do before the start of the course so that progress can be measured. You also need to evaluate its long-term impact."

Scania's business strategy based on training has paid off. The company reached pole position in the trucks business three years ahead of schedule. And it is still committed to the value of National Training Awards.

"The next time we have a training programme that is exceptionally effective then we shall definitely enter it," says Mr Cramp.



Training award winner: a Bombardier maintenance team

Skilled personnel take off in Ulster

A global aerospace manufacturer has stayed ahead by constantly upgrading staff training

Despite the Troubles, Northern Ireland has had at least one long-running success story, with the aircraft-maker Shorts, now part of Bombardier Aerospace, the Canadian-based multinational.

During the past decade the company has won eight National Training Awards, an extraordinary achievement. The success rate, however, reflects the company's commitment to training. As the world's third largest civil aircraft manufacturer (making, for example, the Learjet, the Challenger and the Global Express), Bombardier has introduced a new aircraft every year for the past six years.

This level of innovation demands that the company cannot stand still. It needs to develop its skill base constantly, both technically and managerially.

David Molloy is the French-Canadian acting vice-president for human resources for Shorts in Belfast. "The skills of the Northern Ireland workforce are well-respected throughout the company," he says. "Laurent Beaudoin, the president of Bombardier, was commenting on them in Canada recently. And the company has a strong commitment to continue developing those skills. During the past ten years we have spent £70 million on training alone in Belfast."

But where do National Training Awards fit in? "I think that external evaluation and recognition of what one is doing is very important. It is satisfying to receive a government award of this kind," says Mr Molloy.

Although Bombardier has a strong respect for the cultural and social differences within its organisation (it operates in 11 countries across North America and Europe), it uses a common, company-wide performance management system in which skills, career development and succession planning are closely interwoven.

Based on regular personal appraisals, the planning of training is linked directly to the overall needs of the business and the career progress of each individual.

Everything, ultimately, is geared to financial results. The various National Training Award winning entries have all stemmed from this process.

Its entry for last year was typical of its approach. Featuring a training programme for employees who worked on aerospace machinery maintenance, Shorts was able to show that dependence on suppliers had been sharply reduced. This led to savings of about £3 million and a 20 per cent improvement in engineering maintenance productivity.

With results like that it is not surprising that Bombardier has no hesitation in continuing to back its training commitment in Northern Ireland — and to support the National Training Awards.

More initiatives bubble in the forge

The minister in charge of boosting Britain's skills base has high hopes, says **Edward Fennell**

As the recently appointed Minister for Lifelong Learning, George Mudie has a down-to-earth approach to the job of steering the UK's investment in job training.

Representing a Leeds constituency that has seen a massive reduction of the local clothing industry, he knows how important it is for people to develop new skills and for communities to plan ahead to attract fresh investment and jobs.

With the task of spearheading initiatives such as the University for Industry and the new Individual Learning Accounts, Mr Mudie is confident that 1999 will be the year that training for jobs starts to attract its share of the limelight at the Department for Education and Employment.

As its annual recognition of excellence in training takes place, the National Training Awards continue to play an important part in the department's initiatives to encourage greater take-up of effective training.

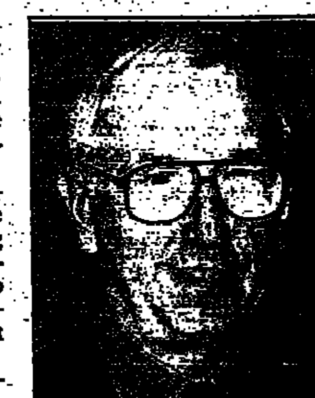
Mr Mudie's particular concern is that employers should adopt a liberal approach, so that programmes are not too narrowly focused but, rather, help to develop employees' capabilities.

As its annual recognition of excellence in training the NTA continues to play an important part in the DfEE's suite of initiatives to encourage the greater take-up of effective training. In recent years, however, the number of applications for NTAs has dropped.

For example, since 1996 there has been a fall of 33 per cent. Official views are mixed on this.

The numbers of entrants may have declined, but the quality is higher and the workshops run by Tecs has led to much greater self-selection among potential applicants.

A big test for the department will be the take-up this year of Individual Learning Accounts. The Government will be making £150 a head available to 100,000 people from April. In return, those people must make a personal investment of



Mudie: concerned

£25. The aim is to have a million people with learning accounts by 2002.

If the system is to work, it is vital that the money is wisely spent. Mr Mudie is keen to maximise the benefits by encouraging workers to act collectively — through their trade unions, typically — so as to gain economies of scale in buying-in relevant training.

He is convinced that the national mood is right for this kind of initiative. "The empowerment of individuals through training" is his personal motto in driving forward the programme. Aware that the UK still has one of the highest proportions of unqualified people among the Western industrialised nations, he believes that this "second chance" education is now critical for the future of both individuals and industry.

> 'She was so proud of her certificate that she put it up above where she worked'

Parallel to Individual Learning Accounts is the opening of the University for Industry. Much was made of this during Labour's election campaign and the time has come to start delivering. A budget of £40 million has been allocated for the university, and an advisory board has been putting in place a three-year development plan.

Based in Sheffield, the university will aim to exploit the potential of information technology in general, and the Internet in particular, to produce a wide range of learning materials that people can easily gain access to at work or at home.

Money has been won from the European Union's Adapt scheme to fund the development projects, and the university should start to make its presence felt during the next two years.

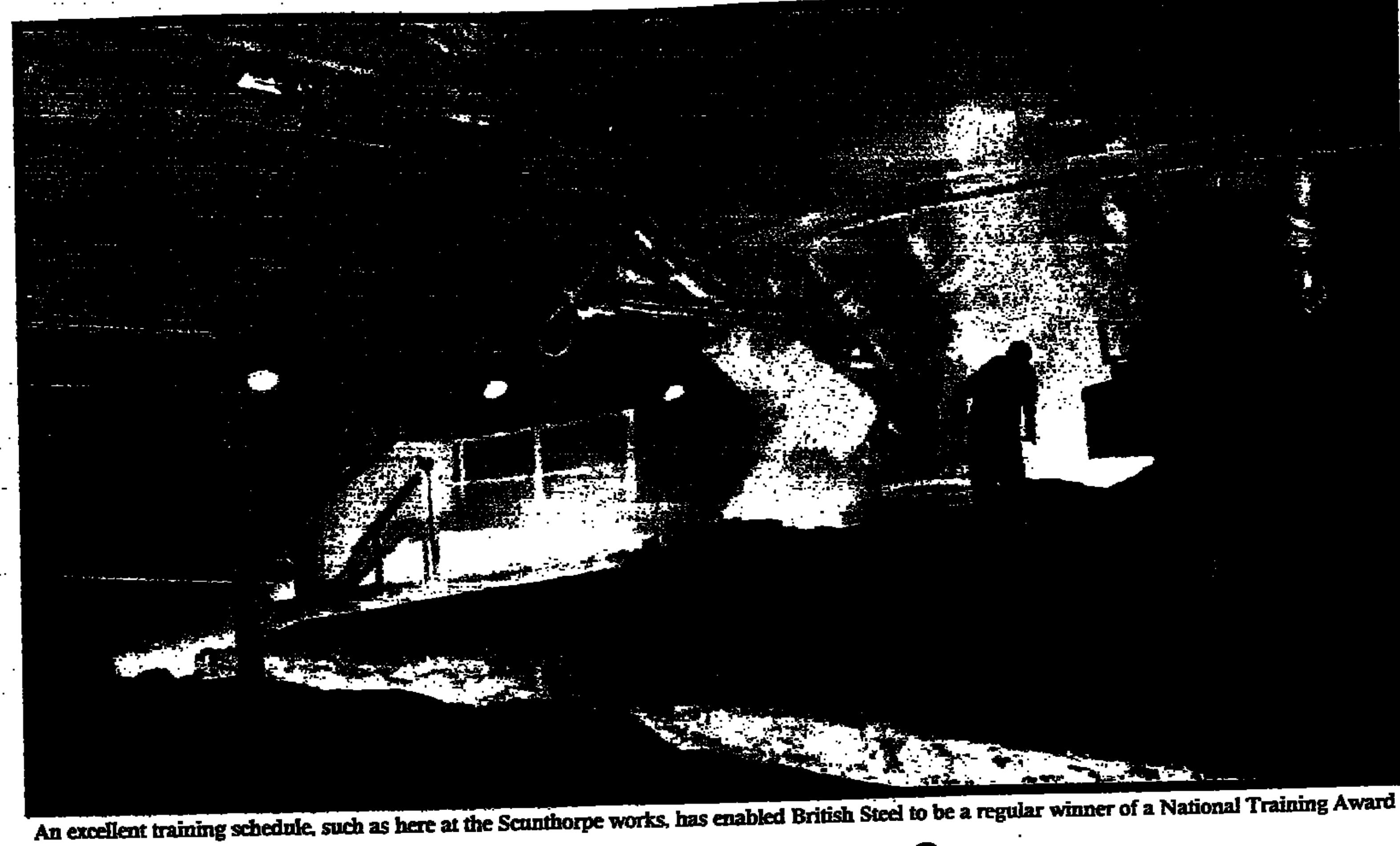
Yet while pushing forward on these new fronts, Mr Mudie is still concerned to embed some developments from the previous administration. The increased take-up of National Vocational Qualifications, the new-style job qualifications launched a decade ago, is of continuing concern to him.

Sceptical at first of the value of NVQs, he is now a supporter. "I was visiting a factory in Leeds and I met a young woman who had recently gained an NVQ. She was so proud of her achievement that she had framed the certificate and put it up above where she worked. It clearly meant a lot to her."

To achieve his ambitions for all these initiatives, Mr Mudie is keen to work with both the locally based Tecs and Lecs and the recently established National Training Organisations.

"These are people who must work directly with employers to ensure that training continues to be a high priority," he says.

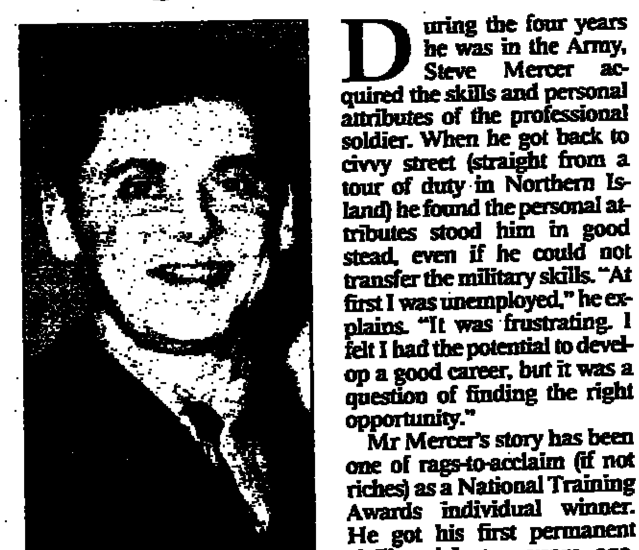
The significance of National Training Awards is that they provide real-life examples of what training can achieve. "I am fully behind NTAs," Mr Mudie says. "We must work to ensure that participation continues to grow."



An excellent training schedule, such as here at the Scunthorpe works, has enabled British Steel to be a regular winner of a National Training Award

Fighting spirit the perfect weapon

An ex-soldier is promoted from manual labour to management



Mercer: combined rubbish with finance

During the four years he was in the Army, Steve Mercer acquired the skills and personal attributes of the professional soldier. When he got back to civvy street (straight from a tour of duty in Northern Island) he found the personal attributes stood him in good stead, even if he could not transfer the military skills. "At first I was unemployed," he explains. "It was frustrating. I felt I had the potential to develop a good career, but it was a question of finding the right opportunity."

Mr Mercer's story has been one of rags-to-acclaim (if not riches) as a National Training Awards individual winner. He got his first permanent civilian job ten years ago, collecting Christmas rubbish as part of the Rochdale Borough Council's direct services organisation.

"When I was interviewed for the job I told the manager that I wanted first to learn to drive the truck, then to be in charge of it and then to be promoted to management," he says. "He was amazed at my attitude, and then gave me a lot of support later on."

Through plenty of hard work, training and learning in his own time — plus the support of a sympathetic employer — Mr Mercer achieved his ambitions, and more. "After working all day I used to go to college to study finance, where I was alongside people who had been sitting comfortably in their offices with their Filofaxes while I was out collecting rubbish," he recalls.

Mr Mercer's resilience, a legacy from the Forces, paid off. He gained a supervisor's qualification, a Higher National Certificate in Business and Finance and various other qualifications, including a Diploma in Occupational Safety.

Meanwhile, he was being promoted at work and is now the manager responsible for health, safety and quality assurance of 1,800 staff.

His career advancement and learning success earned him a Supreme Winners Award in the National Training Awards in 1997 and the chance to meet government ministers and officials at the House of Commons.

"I firmly believe in the importance of creating opportunities for people to develop themselves," he says. "Employers should never underestimate the capabilities of their staff."

Mr Mercer's participation in the National Training Awards allowed him the opportunity to gain recognition for his achievements while highlighting just how much individuals can progress if presented with basic opportunities for self-development. And it's certainly not the end for him — he's keen to take his career to an even higher level. "I am not resting on my laurels," he says. "I want further opportunities."

Family Division

Law Report January 20 1999

Reforming adoption procedure

In re R (a Minor) (Inter-country adoptions: Practice)

Before Mrs Justice Bracewell

[Judgment January 13]

Alterations to current practice and procedures were clearly needed in order to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in inter-country adoptions and to prevent a repetition of the grave injustice to a child that had arisen in the instant case.

Mrs Justice Bracewell, sitting in the Family Division, so stated when dismissing the applicants' adoption application and making the child a ward of court while granting care and control to the applicants, making an order for contact with the natural family and ordering the applicants to allocate £30,000 to finance that future contact and to pay £20,000 in costs to the Official Solicitor.

Since making those orders she had heard argument on practice and procedure and was giving judgment in open court in order to provide guidelines for future management in respect of foreign country adoptions.

Although the judgment was delivered in open court, the case was heard in chambers and leave to report was given on the basis that the anonymity of the child, the parties and the location of the case would be preserved.

Miss Amanda Barrington-Smyth for the applicants; Mr Peter Jackson for the parents; Mr Peter Horrocks for the local authority; Miss Lisa Giovannetti for the Secretary of State for the Home Department; Mr Michael Stern for the guardian ad litem.

MRS JUSTICE BRACEWELL said that the child, AM, aged five, had come to the United Kingdom accompanied by one of the applicants, Mrs R.

The immigration officer, on being shown a single visit entry clearance issued in Bucharest for the limited purpose of a one-month holiday visit with parental consent, issued the standard six-month entry visa.

Although at that time Mrs R had denied any intent to adopt, the applicants subsequently gave notice under section 22 of the Adoption Act 1976 to the local authority that they intended to adopt AM and in 1995 issued an application to adopt which stated that the natural parents consented.

Under section 32 of the 1976 Act AM became a protected child. The Home Office allowed her to stay on for 12 months, extended twice. Meanwhile the natural parents had eventually been contacted in August 1996 when they expressed their opposition to the adoption and demanded AM's return.

The Official Solicitor had been appointed in October 1995 when the case was transferred to the High Court. He first met the parents in 1998. By that time the Home Secretary had intervened to oppose the adoption application.

Having listed the current legitimate procedures, her Ladyship said that she had two principal concerns.

The first was the question of delay: the child, aged five, had arrived in this country from Romania on August 15, 1994 and her future was not determined until December 2, 1998, over four years later. The problem to be addressed was the need to prevent passage of time determining placement.

The second concern was the suppression of truth: the statutory scheme for the protection of children in inter-country adoptions did not result in the true facts being revealed until the hearing was actually in progress. The problem to be addressed was the effective use of procedure and guidelines to deter British citizens from embarking on illegal adoption activities.

Compliance with proper procedures minimised the risk of injustice, providing a firm foundation for a child's future and a clear history of the past; disregard of the procedures deprived children of protection, almost inevitably involved criminal offences under sections 11 and 57 of the 1976 Act, might well involve immigration control offences, were generally accompanied by lies and dishonesty and led to complex, expensive and emotionally charged legal proceedings with prominent abuses including unsuitable carers, disregard for parental rights, trafficking in children and intolerable delay.

Applicants

The crucial matter of principle was the duty of full and frank disclosure. As Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, had said in the Court of Appeal in *Oxfordshire County Council v M* ([1994] Fam 151, 161):

"Children's cases are to be regarded as being in a special category ... Relevant information should be made available to the court in order that it can arrive at a conclusion which is in the overriding interests of the welfare of the child."

That applied with special force to applicants in inter-country adoptions as they were usually the only parties with full knowledge of all the facts.

The Home Office

On permitting entry to non-European Union citizens the standard practice was to grant permission for a six-month stay; thereafter no checks of any kind were made to see whether the individual had left the jurisdiction.

That was a serious failure of responsibility which enabled people to disappear from view and could only operate to encourage lawbreaking.

Where a child of non-European Union origin arrived accompanied by a non-related adult, the child should be permitted entry only with written parental consent, for the minimum period necessary not the conventional six months.

Within 72 hours the Home Office should inform the Department of Health and the local authority's social services should be informed within 72 hours thereafter so that the child could be treated as a privately fostered child within the terms of section 67 of the Children Act 1989.

If the Home Office was notified that the parents did not consent to the child's presence here the child should be deported immediately.

Department of Health

The Department of Health should take on the role of coordinating policy and actively inquire into steps being taken by the local authority.

The department knew of AM's presence in November 1994 but took no action, nor had it responded to the Official Solicitor's letter in August 1996.

The local authority

Once the local authority had learned of AM's presence in 1994 it had a duty to satisfy itself that her welfare was being safeguarded. In the event the local authority failed to discharge its duties to AM, either as a privately fostered child or as a child in need under section 17 of the 1989 Act.

On receipt of notification of a child in AM's position the local authority should have a pivotal role. It should consider the matter at director level and seek legal advice, attempting to contact the natural parents immediately to seek clarification of the child's status.

If not satisfied, it should consider proceedings under Part IV and V of the 1989 Act and, if an adoption application was issued, the local authority should ascertain if that intention had been disclosed to the immigration officer.

If not, it should apply for the case to be transferred to the High Court and listed as a matter of urgency for directions and investigation.

The court

Under section 6 of the 1976 Act the court had a duty to consider all the circumstances, primarily the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.

In this case the county court took no decision of any significance for three years, no guardian ad litem was appointed for nine months, the natural parents were not made parties.

As a stark illustration of progress, up until February 1998 the court had eight documents; by November 1998 the court bundle ran to 600 pages.

In foreign adoption cases the court needed to be vigilant at all times to ensure proper investigation.

Upon receipt of an adoption application the court should draw up a precise time-table and applicants should be required to file an affidavit in advance setting out all the circumstances, including parental consent.

All parties should be required to attend, the Home Office should send a knowledgeable representative to the hearings, cross-examination should be permitted, the court should never accept untranslated documents, and directions should include personal service on the natural parents.

If it appeared that the parents had never consented in writing to an adoption then the court should transfer the case to the High Court, consider summary dismissal, invite the Official Solicitor to make the child a ward of court and order the return of the child to the natural parents. Should the case continue the court should keep a close eye on all matters.

This case demonstrated, in particular, that rule 21 of the Adoption Rules (SI 1984 No 265) did not impart sufficient urgency in listing non-agency inter-country adoptions and further consideration might be appropriate in respect of *Practice Direction (Inter-country adoptions: Transfer of proceedings)* ([1994] 1 WLR 13) regarding *transfers between the county court* and the High Court.

Guardian ad litem

The guardian ad litem had a duty to investigate, particularly in cases such as this where the applicants had already been rejected as potential adopters and a child of theirs had been in voluntary care, and then to represent the child's best interests.

The importance of speedy contact with the child's natural family should be recognised.

Here the Official Solicitor was appointed as guardian in 1995 and did not report until three years later, in 1998.

Furthermore, all agencies should inform the police if there were suspicions that criminal offences had been committed.

In conclusion, her Ladyship directed that a copy of the transcript of the judgment be provided to the Department of Health, the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department to try to prevent any repetition of the grave injustice that had been done to the child in this case.

Solicitors: Pro Bono Unit; Mishcon de Reya; Solicitor for the local authority; Treasury Solicitor; Official Solicitor.

Court of Appeal

Allocating foreign income for tax

Commercial Union Assurance Co plc v Shaw (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment December 21]

A company was not entitled to allocate to its foreign income only so much of any charges on income as would leave the corporation tax otherwise payable on that foreign income equal to and offset by double taxation relief, thereby producing an excess of charges on income capable of being carried forward to a subsequent accounting period.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the taxpayer company, Commercial Union Assurance Co plc, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Harman in the Chancery Division on February 20, 1998 of its appeal against corporation tax assessments for eight accounting periods between 1984 and 1991 and against the refusal to allow it to carry forward losses in respect of the last three of those accounting periods ([1998] STC 386).

Mr Graham Aaronson, QC and Mr Malcolm Gammie for the taxpayer; Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr Jonathan Peacock for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the taxpayer company in each relevant accounting period had made payments of interest constituting charges on income and received foreign income subject to foreign tax qualifying for double taxation relief.

It had purported to allocate to its foreign income only so much of the charges on income as would leave the corporation tax otherwise payable on that foreign income equal to and offset by double taxation relief, thereby leaving to its modest chargeable gains constituting the remainder of its total profits the remainder of the charges on income.

The primary issue on the appeal was whether it had been entitled to compute its profits in that way, which produced an excess of charges on income capable of being carried forward to a subsequent accounting period. That issue turned on the true construction and interpretation of sections 338(1), 393(9) and 797(3) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

The taxpayer had submitted, first, that double taxation relief came within the words "other relief from tax" in section 338(1) so that the total profits had to be treated as reduced by double taxation relief.

Second, it had relied on the fact that it was entitled to use its power of allocation under section 797(3) to allocate charges on income in such amounts and to such of its profits as it chose.

It had submitted that the effect of that was that it could take full advantage of double taxation relief, which would otherwise expire, and also of the relief for charges on income which, if not fully utilised in the current period, survived for use in subsequent periods.

The taxpayer's first submission turned on the meaning of the words of section 338(1) allowing charges on income as deductions against "the total profits for the period as reduced by any other relief from tax, other than group relief".

In his Lordship's judgment, section 338(1) did not assist the taxpayer because double taxation relief was not a relief from tax which reduced profits, but was a credit to be allowed against UK tax, in the present case corporation tax: see section 797(1).

The scheme of the corporation tax legislation required, first, the ascertainment of income from a particular source and chargeable gains, as reduced by any relief applicable to income from that source or to those gains; then the ascertainment of the total profits by aggregating the income from the various sources and the gains, as reduced by any relief applicable to those total profits, and once the amount of the net total profits had been ascertained the corporation tax prima facie chargeable on the total profits could be determined.

That corporation tax might in turn be reduced or extinguished by other reliefs which were expressed to apply to that tax. Only then was the amount of corporation tax payable ascertained.

There were tax reliefs which, like charges on income, operated by way of deductions from the total profits for a period and so reduced those profits, while there were other tax reliefs which operated at a later stage by directly reducing tax.

In the former category were trading losses (section 393), group relief (sections 402(1) and 403(1)) and discounts on discounted bills of exchange (section 78(2)).

In the latter category were advance corporation tax (sections 239(1) and (2) and 797(4)) and double taxation relief. As was said in section 793(1), the amount of UK taxes chargeable in respect of any income or chargeable gain would be reduced by the amount of the double taxation relief credit.

In so far as the foreign tax on any relevant income was levied at a rate less than the corporation tax rate on that income the company's total profits were not reduced either in some economic sense or at all.

If UK corporation tax was levied at 35 per cent and the foreign tax was levied at 30 per cent on foreign income, that income was not relieved from corporation tax but double taxation relief caused the corporation tax on that income to be levied at only 5 per cent.

Hence it was only if the foreign tax was levied at a rate equal to or greater than the corporation tax rate that the economic effect of double taxation relief might be said to be the same as if the total profits were reduced by the relevant income.

But double taxation relief was not expressed to operate by reducing taxable profits, and the language of section 338(1) did not suggest that one was required to look at the economic effect. That was reinforced by the fact that although section 338(1) was made subject to a *number of provisions in the* Act, it was not made subject to section 797.

The taxpayer's second submission rested on the right conferred by section 797(3)(a) on a company to allocate the deductions allowed "in such amounts and to such of its profits for that period as it thinks fit".

The effect of the allocation, it had said, was to reveal the amount of foreign income relieved from tax by the maximum permitted double taxation relief. That, it had argued, was the purpose of section 797.

His Lordship was not persuaded by that submission. The right to allocate under section 797(3)(a) existed only for the purposes of the section.

The General Commissioners had thought it clear that that allocation could be effected only for the purpose of setting foreign tax against UK tax on the same profits and that it could not be made for a purpose outside section 797, such as for the purpose of achieving a computation of a loss under section 393(9), and the judge had agreed with them.

His Lordship also agreed that in purporting to exercise the power of allocation in the way the taxpayer had, it had aimed beyond the limited purpose of the section, that was to say the purpose of determining the corporation tax attributable to the relevant income or gain.

Further, the exercise of the right to allocate could not affect the calculation of whether in a given accounting period the charges on income paid by the company exceeded the amount of the profits against which they were deductible. That was the amount of profits against which they were capable of being deducted, not against which they had been allocated as deductions.

Section 393(9) did not permit the carry forward of charges on income which were less than the amount of the taxpayer company's profits against which they were deductible.

Consistently with that, section 797(3) did not permit a company to allocate to profits a deduction greater than the amount necessary to reduce those profits to nothing.

As the General Commissioners had said: "the deduction to be made for charges on income in sec*tion 797(3) cannot* be greater than the profits from which those charges are deductible ... what can be allocated to any category of profits is a sum of charges on income up to but not exceeding the amount of that category of profits ... Thus section 797(3)(b) directs that the relevant income or gain shall be reduced or extinguished, something that is effected by allocation of a sum not exceeding that income or gain." ([1998] STC 386, 394).

What the taxpayer had done was impermissible. In short, the deductions had to be fully utilised before double taxation relief was taken.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Solicitor, Inland Revenue.

Bus shelter consent not irrevocable

Regina v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte London Regional Transport

Before Mr Justice Hidden

[Judgment December 18]

The giving of consent by a local authority to erect and maintain bus shelters on highway land within the council's area, under section 104 of the London Transport Passenger Act 1934, was a continuous consent subject to withdrawal by the local authority, and not an irrevocable once and for all consent. Where the council revoked the consents it had acted lawfully.

Mr Justice Hidden so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review of the decision of the community and environment committee of Hillingdon London Borough Council on February 11, 1998, given effect to by notice dated April 24, 1998, which purported to revoke the section 104 consent and further, required London Regional Transport to remove the bus shelters which were subject to the revocations.

In 1995 the council conducted a tendering exercise in relation to bus stop sites which the council themselves maintained, and sites where no consents as yet were given, and entered into an agreement with J. C. Decaux UK Ltd.

The company were granted the exclusive right for 25 years to install bus shelters in the council's area, excepting those provided and maintained under existing section 104 powers.

Under the agreement the company stated that if the council was able to provide them with access to the section 104 sites they would erect replacement shelters on those sites and provide the council with other benefits. The council then purported to revoke the section 104 consents and London Transport challenged the decision.

Mr David Holgate, QC and Mr David Fosdick for London Regional Transport; Mr Michael Supperstone, QC and Mr Andrew Hillier *for Hillingdon; Mr Timothy Cor*ner for J. C. Decaux.

MR JUSTICE HIDDEN said that Mr Supperstone was correct as to the construction of the word "maintain" in section 104: that it meant "to continue in position" and there had to be continuing consent, not the once and for all consent contended for by Mr Holgate. It was thus not a single consent to the use of land which, once given, was without limit of time.

His Lordship was satisfied that there existed an implied power in the council to revoke the section 104 consents despite the absence of express words in the statute.

His Lordship did not consider that that power could only be exercised on grounds relevant to the statutory purposes of section 104 such as highway safety issues.

Neither was the question of additional benefits immaterial or wholly irrelevant to the decision.

His Lordship did not accept that the implied power to revoke, which he had held to exist could only be exercised where it was necessary for the achievement of the statutory purposes of section 104, neither was it necessary to revoke the consent on highway grounds. It was enough that the council found it desirable in relation to the carrying out of its duties either as a highway authority or as a local authority.

Further, his Lordship was prepared to hold that "maintain" connoted a continuing state of affairs and that the consent was continuing and thus there was no need for the express words for which the applicants contended. His Lordship accepted that the consent given by the council constituted a licence which was revocable on reasonable notice and subject to *Wednesbury* principles of reasonableness ([1948] 1 KB 223).

His Lordship said that if he was wrong in holding that the consents were continuing, and not a one-off decision, then he considered that the council had in any event an implied power to revoke the consents, which could be exercised not merely by reason of necessity for the purposes of section 104, but equally if it were desirable for the purposes either of section 104, or of any other local *authority purpose.*

Solicitors: Miss Katherine Thomas, Hillingdon; Miss Frances Low; Linklaters & Paines.

Complying with fishing controls

Unity FR 165 Ltd and Another v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Before Lord Justice Buxton and Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment January 14]

In order to comply with the procedure for declaring to the competent control authority the quantity of mackerel on board a vessel prior to that vessel entering an area in which mackerel fishing was restricted, each sub-paragraph of paragraph 3 of article 9 of Council Regulation 894/97 (OJ 1997 L132/1), which described that procedure, had to be complied with.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, when refusing appeals by Unity FR 165 Ltd and Stephen Bellany by way of case stated against their convictions by Plymouth Justices on July 17, 1998 for failing to comply with a specified Community provision, namely article 9 of Council Regulation 894/97 in that they retained on board mackerel caught within an area described by paragraph 1 of that article, contrary to article 3(1)(a) of the Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Conservation Measures) Order (SI 1997 No 1949).

Mr Martin Edmunds for the defendants; Mr Robin Miller for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON said that article 9 of Council Regulation 894/97, a regulation intended to conserve fishery resources in community waters, restricted the amount of mackerel, caught within an area defined by paragraph 1 of the article, which could be retained on board a vessel.

Mackerel retained on board a vessel would be deemed by paragraph 3 of article 9 to have been caught within that area, unless the vessel had complied with a procedure described in the three sub-paragraphs of paragraph 3.

The first sub-paragraph required a vessel to give the competent control authority 24 hours notice of its entry into the area, and the second required a vessel to notify the authority of the quantities of mackerel on board once the area had been entered.

The defendants had argued that it would be sufficient to comply with the second sub-paragraph only, as the sub-paragraphs were in the alternative.

In his Lordship's judgment, the sub-paragraphs were cumulative in effect, and not alternative. Otherwise the impact of the regulations would be lost.

Mr Justice Collins agreed.

Solicitors: Kitsons, Torquay; Gill Akaster, Plymouth.

Chartered Institute of Taxation Associateship exams, November 1998

The Chartered Institute of Taxation

Successful Candidates in the Associateship Examination held in November 1998

Awards

The Institute Medal for the best overall performance.
John Edward Barnett (Burges Salmon, Solicitors, Bristol)

The Ian Walker Medal for the best overall performance in the paper on Tax Administration, Professional Responsibilities and Ethics.
David Alan Taylor (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Cambridge)

The Spofforth Medal for the paper on Personal Tax and Trust Taxation.
Joanna Mary McClelland (Arthur Andersen, London)

The John Wood Medal for the paper on Business Taxation.
Fionna Jennifer Keith (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Birmingham)

The Avery Jones Medal for the paper on Practical Implications, Interaction and Tax Planning.
Caroline Hawkins (KPMG, Sheffield)

The Butterworth Prize for the highest total marks.
John Edward Barnett (Burges Salmon, Solicitors, Bristol)

Distinctions

John Edward Barnett (Burges Salmon, Solicitors, Bristol) Matthew Damian Dyson (BPP Taxtion Courses, London) Caroline Hawkins (KPMG, Sheffield) Fionna Jennifer Keith (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Birmingham) Andrew Meyrick Nash (Baker Tilly, London) Sacha Jane Pertwee (Berwin Leighton, Solicitors, London) David Alan Taylor (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Cambridge) Jennifer Susan Willson (SWAT Training Ltd, Plymouth)

+ = Prizewinner * = Distinction

Abbott S P (Bury); Abbot T A (Huntingdon); Adair L G (Edinburgh); Allerton J C (New Malden); Ames J L (London); Arthur K J (Glasgow); Ashley N (Norwich).

Baker J S (Bournemouth); Bancroft S M (London); Banks T A (Colchester); Burdle D R (Winscombe); Bargh D W (Widnes); +*Barnett J E (Bristol); Barreto O T A (Harrow); Basra N (Birmingham); Bates S J (Oxford); Baylis E J (Nottingham); Beck D M S (Sutton); Bell N H (Bradford); Bell P B (Bonnybridge); Bennett T (Preston); Benotiglio A H (London); Birley T S (St Peter Port, Guernsey); Bolling G H (Glasgow); Bradford J D (Beaconsfield); Brading D A (London); Broughton J W H (London); Bryson G W B (Mauchline), Buckingham M L (Fareham), Budden M (London), Burnand J B (Reading).

Carmichael S A (Bathgate); Cassidy A A (London); Catton S M J (Welwyn); Celik B (London); Chapman J F (Lutterworth); Chapman J S (Coventry); Chevis E L S (High Wycombe); Chipperfield S M (Benfleet); Christmas J (Uxbridge); Clark R J (Sheffield); Cleave D A (Bristol); Colson N M (Harrow); Connaughton R M (Bury); Cooper P A (Erith); Cornock J G (Milford Haven); Cox S (Wakefield); Craddock J (Birmingham); Crewdson J N (Glasgow); Cronshaw S (London); Crowther D B E (Leeds); Cuddihy S J (Henley on Thames); Curran J E (Belfast); Curran P A (St Helens).

Davies K M (Gloucester); De Bass J R F (London); Dean J N A (Malvern); Deeley A J (Solihull), Degun A S (Sutton Coldfield); Deighton C W (Bristol); Docker D M (Manchester); *Dyson M D (London).

Edwards R A (London); Elford S W (Salisbury); England A J (Horsham); Evans J A (London).

Farmer J (Southampton), Fearn P S (Grimsby); Fleming W P (Norwich); Francis R A (Sale); Fraser I G (London).

Gair P L (Portsmouth); Gilpin L J (St Albans); Gledhill B C (Ipswich); Gough S P (Reading); Grant G R (Cambridge); Griffin M J (Bristol); Guest H B (Thornaby on Tees).

Hadfield W A (Stourbridge); Haig M B (Bedford); Hakner J A (Beverley); Hankins M C (Shrewsbury); Hanrahan S N (London); Harding S (Rochdale); Harper I (Warrington); Hart S L (Sutton Coldfield), Haunton K M (Egham); Havery A J (London); +*Hawkins C (Sheffield); Hendley J A (Sutton Coldfield); Henman J E (Cambridge); Henry R M (Manchester); Henshaw R E (London); Hewes A J (Colchester); Hill L D F (Exeter); Hill S A (Brierley Hill); Hollyman R C (London); Hollywood M P (St Helier, Jersey); Holt A (Nottingham); Hood A (Bolton); Howell C E (Godalming); Huang E (London); Hughes A J (Manchester); Hughes F A (Aldershot); Hughes J P (Windsor); Hunt C S (Rugby).

Iu Y (Bristol).

Jackson A J (Newport, Isle of Wight); Jacques E V (Altrincham); Jefferson L S (London); Jennings D K (Manchester); Johnson S L (Reading); Jones Elizabeth L (Henley on Thames); Jones G (Bexley); Jones J (Ballymena); Joyce C (Bristol).

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Young S P (Bolton).

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION

Founded in 1930. The Chartered Institute of Taxation is Britain's senior professional body concerned solely with taxation, and the accrediting body for the examinations reported on this page. It is multi-disciplinary, with over 10,700 members being drawn from the professions, commerce, industry, the public sector and taxation authorities.

Further information can be obtained from the Institute at 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1X 8BB (0171 235 9381).

Website: http://www.tax.org.uk

The Association of Taxation Technicians

Successful Candidates in the Taxation Examination held in November 1998

In addition to success in the taxation examination, the criteria of experience and appropriate knowledge of Law and Accounting have to be satisfied to be eligible for membership of the Association.

Awards

The Association Medal for the best overall performance.
Karen McGrath (Ernst & Young, Belfast)

The Ivison Medal for the highest marks for the paper on Personal Taxation.
Virginia Patricia Bishop (KMPG, Reading)

The Jennings Medal for the highest marks for the paper on Business Taxation.
Paul Stuart Curtis (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Middlesbrough)

The Tolley Prize for the highest overall marks.
Sarah Michelle Gray (Arthur Andersen, Manchester)

Distinctions

Virginia Patricia Bishop (KMPG, Reading) Matthew Peter Brown (Hambro Assistance, Colchester) Philip James Cullis (KPMG, Edinburgh) Paul Stuart Curtis (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Middlesbrough) J Catherine Ford (Inchcape Plc, London) Sarah Michelle Gray (Arthur Andersen, Manchester) Andrew John Green (Crosher & James, Property Tax Consultants, London) Juliet Boyd Halfhead (Arthur Andersen, Cambridge) Christopher Charles Hall (Arthur Andersen, Leeds) David C F Hill (Sykes & Co, Chartered Accountants, Ludlow) Sophie Ann Lambert (Deloitte & Touche, London) Michael John Lewis (Deloitte & Touche, London) Teresa Dawn Marshall (Reeves & Neylan, Chartered Accountants, Canterbury) Christine Tracey McFarlane (Robson Rhodes, Crawley) Karen McGrath (Ernst & Young, Belfast) Sangeeta Mistry (PricewaterhouseCoopers, London) Mark Nicholas Merton (Ernst & Young, Luton) Anna Richards (Arthur Andersen, Cambridge) Sukhpal Singh (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Reading) Alison Mary Smith (Arthur Andersen, Reading) Neil Matthew Stockham (Ernst & Young, Luton) Andrea Lyn Williams (PricewaterhouseCoopers, Manchester)

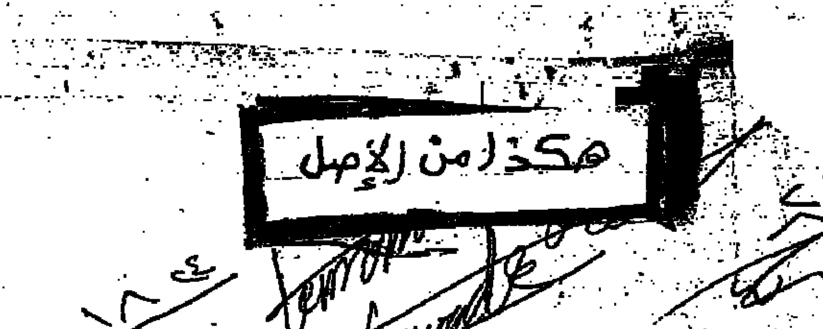
+ = Prizewinner * = Distinction

Abbott J L (Hertford); Ackroyd R S E (Bradford); Aitken T C (Linlithgow); Alder S P (Chorley); Allen A J (Bristol); Allison N S (Newcastle upon Tyne); Allman T M (York); Anderson A D (Richmond); Anthony N J (Leighton Buzzard); Armstrong A J (London).

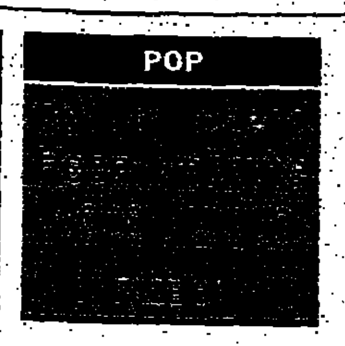
Babeyan G (Sevenoaks); Bacon S C J (Chelmsford); Bahia J (Leeds); Bailey R K (Burnham on Sea); Bains J S (Coventry); Baker A (Whitstable); Bamford K J (Harrogate); Barlow V S (St Asaph); Barnett S J (London); Bartlett H E (Birmingham); Barwick J M (Crawley); Bateman R I (Linlithgow); Bates S J (Altrincham); Baxter D A (London); Baxter R E (Coventry); Bayfield S E (Gravesend); Beaney C (Hornchurch); Ben[illegible]

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POP

THE TIMES

ARTS

THEATRE

Hits and misses at the Mime Festival

PAGE 35



All was fair in a love like a war

CINEMA: Portraying Jacqueline du Pré's life was painful for director Anand Tucker, **Carol Allen** reports

Anand Tucker, the director of *Hilary and Jackie*, has a background in documentaries. And although he and the writer Frank Cottrell Boyce *painstakingly* researched their feature film about the relationship between Hilary du Pré and her famous cellist sister Jacqueline, who was struck down by multiple sclerosis at the height of her career, as thoroughly as any factual documentary, Tucker makes *what might* seem a startling admission.

"There's no such thing as the truth," he says. "It doesn't exist. What there is is this side of the story and that side and probably 20 more sides. Films are very simple things. Lives are very complicated. Our film is a *mythic story* about two extraordinary women. Everyone else, they're like satellites revolving around these two powerful forces."

The film and the book, *A Genius in the Family*, Hilary and Piers du Pré's memoir of life with their sister from which the film draws much of its material, actually grew side by side as separate entities. Tucker saw a four-page treatment of the book before it had been written and from that decided this was a story he wanted to film.

"I'd had no idea of the depth of suffering that Jackie had been through," he says. "Nor of the incredible power of this relationship that she had had with her sister and the extraordinary sacrifice that Hilary made for Jackie out of love — huge, epic, unbelievable things that moved me to my very heart. I felt I just had to make the film."

The sacrifice referred to is the revelation, which caused such a stir when the du Prés' book was published in 1997, of Jackie's apparently bizarre demand at one point in their lives, with which her sister concurred, for sexual relations with Hilary's husband. For Tucker that apparently monstrous situation was the core of the story. "What the story's about is unconditional love. Is that possible and how far can you push that? There's one person in the world who loves you no matter what, in this case your sister. You lose her and then you find her again, that's the story that made me cry."

Having read the treatment, Tucker and Cottrell Boyce met the du Prés, heard their experiences first-hand and then spent the next year researching their material, interviewing family, friends, colleagues and tutors who had known Hilary and Jackie, looking for the way to transfer their vision to the screen.

Jacqueline du Pré in 1967: a monstrous talent

"What I've always done with anyone I've ever made a film about," says Tucker, "is to say: 'You've seen my work; I've told you the film I want to make; you have to decide whether you can trust me or not. The film I will make is not your story. It will be my version. If you want a truthful and accurate representation of your life, go away and do it yourself. Don't let me make your film.' They looked me in the eye; they trusted me, in the same way that I had to decide whether I trusted them or not. That's all you can ever do."

One person who refused to be interviewed or take part in any way was Jackie's husband, Daniel Barenboim. He is, however, by no means unsympathetically treated in the film. "He declined to participate," says Tucker. "That's his prerogative and I respect him for that. If the film had been *Jackie and Danny* I'd never have made it, but the film we were making was about two sisters, who love each other no matter what and go through this extraordinary life together. I think he's a hero and I hope I would have done as much for her in the same situation as he did. If he ever does see the film I hope he feels that we have done right by him too."

The film more or less divides into three acts: childhood and adolescence, and then the events of adult life, seen firstly from Hilary's point of view and then from Jackie's.

In the Hilary section of the story, Jackie often appears monstrous, not just with regard to the incident involving the husband, but in terms of her dominance of the family and apparently unreasonable and childish behaviour. Although much of this becomes explicable and even sympathetic in the third part, as we see her loneliness and insecurity as a young woman and then the terrifying onset of her illness, it is inevitably based on surmise and imagination. Jacqueline du Pré is not here to speak for herself.

"But what we have is the music," Tucker points out. "I don't mean to be pretentious about this but actually the music speaks to you. You cannot be untruthful to that — the fear, despair, pain, anguish, love, sorrow, all that is in her musical voice, that's why the music lives."

Some of the most painful scenes in the film are inevitably those involving the destruction of Jackie's talent and existence by her illness. To gain insight into this Tucker and Emily Watson, who plays Jackie, spent time with other MS sufferers. "The one thing that characterises all of them is anger," says Tucker.

"Some people have got upset because she's shown as being difficult in the film, because Jacqueline du Pré has always been an icon. In a way it's been almost too painful for people to contemplate the reality of this beautiful, golden girl being struck down by this disease. But the truth of it was, she raged against the dying of the light, rather than sitting meekly in a corner, wasting away and being saintly. She was furious and desperate and she was pretty awful but that's because she was so angry and I think that needs honouring."

While *Hilary and Jackie* is his first feature film, the 35-year-old Tucker admits that his previous work has always had that element of personal vision. "Anyone you make a film about, it's as if you have an image in a mirror of that person and you smash it into pieces. Then you talk to all these different people, they each give you a little shard of who this person is and you try to stick it together. But you can only interpret it your way.

"Anyone else would have made a different film and I'm not going to pretend I've hit upon the absolute truth. But for me it's been the most amazing journey in my life."

● Hilary and Jackie *opens on Friday*

ALAN WELLER



Anand Tucker: "I always say, if you want a truthful and accurate representation of your life, go away and do it yourself"

MUSIC: **Richard Morrison** previews a disturbing TV documentary about instrumentalists

Orchestra pours out tale of woe

You surely must be mad, brave or colossally vain to allow a fly-on-the-wall television crew into your workplace. *Especially* if your workplace is the arts, a field rich in pretension and pomposity, just made for the deadpan mockery of the roving camera.

Think how comprehensively the Royal Opera House management was shafted by *The House*. Or how a bunch of newspaper critics, several of them quite bright and well-adjusted chaps, naively allowed themselves to be stitched up on Channel 4 last year.

Message received and understood? Clearly not. Starting this Sunday on Channel 4, *The Phil* goes behind the scenes of the Philharmonia as it struggles to stay afloat in London's murky orchestral pond. True, this is no *House-style* hatchet-job. There are no slippery PRs or odious mega-egos unwittingly digging themselves into large holes here. What we see is something much sadder: a mostly sympathetic portrayal of gifted people who have become disenchanted and debilitated by the grinding process of being a classical musician in a seemingly hostile world.



Philharmonia players may do 600 sessions a year to survive

That the Philharmonia is not some mediocre pick-up band, but one of our finest orchestras — resident in Paris and London, and as pristine in squeaky-door Ligeti as in bread-and-butter Brahms — only makes this portrait gloomier. In the British orchestral world, being *la crème de la crème* is apparently no guarantee of security or serendipity.

The Phil presents several familiar cameos: the reformed alcoholic string player contemplating a thrombosis that may end his career 25 years early; the woman player struggling to reconcile being a mother to young children with the relentless touring; the first clarinet being told that there is no way the orchestra can afford to hire a "co-principal" to ease his stress level. No wonder that several players tell the camera that they would never allow their own children to follow them into the music business.

But most of all *The Phil* portrays the bloody-minded determination of London orchestral players to survive, come hell or high water. If this means playing a brain-numbing 600 sessions a year, keeping up an interminable zigzag of one-night stands across Europe, self-imposing a pay freeze or cut (all the London orchestras are co-operatives) and accepting frayed health, frazzled nerves and a shredded family life with a stoical shrug, then that is what they will do. This is why, in spite of all efforts by tidy-minded bureaucrats to "rationalise" London's orchestral life, the capital still has more orchestras than any other city in the world.

In a way this grit is admirable. But as Graham Johnston's series unfolds, the question "what's the point of it all?" *does start to nag. If these players* ever derived joy from their art, they keep damn quiet about it now. "We're artisans rather than artists — more like bricklayers," says the Philharmonia's dour chairman Keith Bragg, by way of explanation.

But that isn't really the reason. I have often been privileged to observe the Philharmonia and other London orchestras on tour. I know these players still love music. They wouldn't play with such passion otherwise; nor would they stand the hours. They can also be wickedly funny; that's what keeps them sane.

Why, then, did they agree to make these programmes and then suppress their joy and wit? Perhaps because they are desperate. Right at the end of the last programme, the Philharmonia's managing director, David Whelton, announces quite calmly that he doesn't believe that orchestras like the Philharmonia will exist in Britain 15 years from now. To judge by their mood in this series, few of his players would disagree with that bleak view. They seem exhausted by the battle to keep going. *The Phil* is their SOS.

● The Phil *is broadcast on Channel 4 this Sunday at 8pm, and then on Jan 31 and Feb 7*

Novelty still wild at fifty

CONCERT

Messiaen Festival
Barbican/Radio 3

Until recently Messiaen's *Turangalîla Symphony* was a rare bird in the concert hall. Now this extravagant hymn to transcendent love pops up almost as much as *Scheherazade*, to which, detractors might say, it bears some resemblance. Luckily, no audience yet takes the work for granted. Before the performance, the curious still cluster round the platform, staring at the orchestra's electronic novelty, the ondes martenot, as one might at a spaceship from Mars. At the end, a standing ovation: what other response can there be for music so tumultuous, swinging wildly from mathematical games to the most heart-wrenching kitsch?

In the final concert of the BBC's Messiaen weekend, Sir Andrew Davis and a resilient BBC Symphony Orchestra relished every facet of this extraordinary work, now 50 years old. Sometimes Messiaen's exuberance can bring hammer and tongs to mind. But here every layer of sound, each brass splatter and piano cascade (the composer's widow Yvonne Loriod was the indefatigable soloist), emerged bright and clear. The ondes martenot's moment of glory was the third movement's melting dialogue with the clarinet: clear proof in Jeanne Loriod's hands that the instrument can produce more than extra-terrestrial mating calls or the sound of a vacuum cleaner being switched on.

We were also helped by hearing the piece alongside its companions in Messiaen's trilogy inspired by the Tristan legend. *Turangalîla* was prefaced by the *Cinq Rechants* of 1948 (the BBC Singers sopranos especially radiant). In the afternoon, accompanied by Iain Burnside, Susan Bullock's dramatic soprano shook St Giles' Church with *Harawi* (1945), a chain of lullabies, Inca dances and celestial visions. In all three Messiaen celebrates the love that leaps over death towards cosmic joy, and it was revealing to hear related impulses clothed in different guises. For the vocal works, Messiaen used invented words, phrases echoing the Tristan and Orpheus legends, throat clicks and shrieks: very effective in their way, though they made one grateful that *Turangalîla* had no words beyond its title — a Sanskrit word fusing the concepts of time, movement, love, life and death.

The afternoon concert also featured *Quartet for the End of Time*, which he wrote in 1940 as a prisoner of war. This is big music writ little, with an impassioned cello and repeated piano chords conjuring emotions that *Turangalîla* is too loud and crazy to reach. All soloists performed well, but the cellist Paul Watkins was exemplary. All told, a wonderful day.

GEOFF BROWN

Climactic in many ways

WHATEVER the reason for the **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group**'s full house — the participation of not only **Sakari Oramo** but also of his wife Anu Komsi, and the attractions of the new hall in the CBSO Centre — it was probably not anything exceptional about the programme itself. It is true that Kurtag's *Messages of the late Miss R.V. Troussova* is approaching the status of a contemporary classic and that anything by Magnus Lindberg is an interesting prospect. But most of the concert, as at most events of this kind, had to be taken on trust.

So it is an indication of the success that BCMG has had with its commissions over the long term that the thought of hearing two more of them was no deterrent. This time the BCMG got it at least half right. Bent Sørensen's *Sinful Songs*, with its 14 instrumentalists distributed along the sides of the hall as well as across the front, looked more interesting than it actually turned out to be. It has very little substance to it: no arresting material, no evident structural purpose beyond spinning out sounds over a given period. Certainly, there are no songs and the only audible sin is durational — which is not in the deadly sinful category although, if the piece had gone on a moment or two longer, it might well have qualified.

Sinful Songs is a title that could have been applied to the other new work in the programme, Alastair Greig's *Play*. Here is a composer with a strong lyrical instinct but one which he is apparently reluctant to indulge. *Play* is based, he says, on the interplay of two contrasting melodic lines that run through its five sections. But it is not until well into the second of them, where a solo flute occupies the attention, that Greig actually allows a line to take a fully coherent shape. The real interest of the piece, which is skilfully and attractively written for a large ensemble, is in observing the varying degrees of freedom allowed to the linear impulse before it expires in a quiet but dramatically conceived ending.

While it would have been a pity to lose either John Woolrich's wittily articulated *Lending Wings* (a BCMG commission from ten years ago) or Lindberg's refreshingly direct *Corrente I*, it was unfortunate that the concert overran the standard time. Apart from the fact that less is better than more in a programme of largely unfamiliar music, there was the usual problem of members of the audience making their exits during the last item. For those who did not have to go, and who were not distracted by those who did, Komsi's performance of *Messages of the late Miss R.V. Troussova*, beautifully sung in general and impressively faked in the notated orgasms of the second section, was an experience that made most of the rest seem trivial in comparison.

GERALD LARNER

■ LISTINGS

Schoolgirls' new opera

ARTS

■ GALLERIES

Provocative Mr Schnabel

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Stephen Boxer is superb as Angelo, and Clare Holman pretty good as Isabella, in Michael Boyd's RSC production of Shakespeare's most awkward play. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire.

STONE ANGELS: Paul Barker's new opera features a cast of 30 schoolgirls from the acclaimed New London Children's Choir and tells the story of a group of girls stranded on a Greek island at the outbreak of the Second World War. For this premiere Odaline de la Martinez conducts her ensemble Lontano. Chris Baldwin directs. **Bloomsbury Theatre** (0171-388 8822). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm.

THE DECEIVED: The Italian source for Shakespeare's Twelfth Night but much more of a cross-dressing sexual romp. Kenneth Rea's production for Jet Theatre relocates it to the 1920s. **Riverside Studios** (0181-237 1111). Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm.

Boris Berezovsky plays Beethoven in Poole

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: Stage music features prominently in this concert as the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** performs extracts from Gounod's Faust and Delibes's Sylvia. The evening also offers Sarasate's seductive Carmen Fantasy for Violin, and Saint-Saëns's mighty Organ Symphony. Petr Altrichter conducts. **Philharmonic Hall** (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm.

POOLE: In a concert boasting a double dose of distinguished Russian musical artistry Dmitri Kitaenko conducts the **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** in a programme of Rossini and Shostakovich, with Boris Berezovsky as soloist in Beethoven's lyrical Third Piano Concerto. **Poole Arts Centre** (01202 685222). Tonight, 7.30pm.

YORK: The vibrant young ensemble **Capricorn** performs an engaging programme of chamber music opening with Bartok's Contrasts followed by Mozart's Quintet for piano and wind in E flat and concluding with Brahms's Piano Quartet in G minor. **Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall**, (01904 432439. Tonight, 8pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **RICHARD III:** Robert Lindsay puts on the hump for Elijah Moshinsky's RSC production, transfer from Stratford. **Savoy** (0171-836 8888).

□ **THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE:** Dramatised reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. Timed to coincide with this month's publication of the findings. Profoundly relevant. **Tricycle** (0171-328 1000).

□ **IN FLAME:** The tangled worlds of a modern woman and an Edwardian miss (Valerie Gogan, Emma Dewhurst) collide in Charlotte Jones's new play, directed by Anna Mackmin. **Bush** (0181-743 3388)

□ **THE GLORY OF LIVING:** British debut for Alabama-born Rebecca Gilman's drama of excitement and danger in the trailer parks. Kathryn Hunter directs. **Ambassadors** (0171-565 5000)

□ **KRAPP'S LAST TAPE:** Edward Petherbridge's touring performance as Beckett's ancient sensualist replaying lost time. Also the rarely performed Breath — duration: 35 seconds. **Arts Theatre** (0171-836 3334).

□ **LORD OF THE FLIES:** William Golding's vivid tale of terror and death on paradise island, adapted by Nigel Williams and directed by Marcus Romer for Pilot Theatre Co. **Lyric, W6** (0181-741 8701).

□ **THE MEMORY OF WATER:** Alison Steadman, Samantha Bond and Julia Sawalha star in Shelagh Stephenson's acclaimed drama of family memories. **Vaudeville** (0171-836 9987).

□ **THE STREET OF CROCODILES:** Welcome return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno Schulz's magical recollections of pre-Nazi Poland. **Queens** (0171-494 5041)

□ **VASSA:** Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season. **Albery** (0171-369 1730)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

MEET JOE BLACK (12): Brad Pitt's comic, charming Joe Black, aka Death, bribes Anthony Hopkins's media tycoon to introduce him to the joys of life. Director Martin Brest tries to give equal credibility to both characters, but ends up with a long-winded, uneven melodrama. Claire Forlani supplies the bewitching love interest.

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18): Christina Ricci plays a caustic, trashy 16-year-old who stitches up her gay step-brother by stealing his boyfriend and high-tailing it to LA. A blistering comedy on political correctness.

BUTTONERS (no cert): Ingenious low-budget Czech film by Petr Zelenka that stitches six stories about modern mores into a daisy chain of quirky, sometimes kinky, coincidences.

DOBERMANN (18): Stylish French splatter movie by Jan Kounen with Vincent Cassel as the charismatic leader of a gang of ultra-violent bank robbers. Fabulously clichéd, grossly amusing, and awesomely incorrect.

SOUR GRAPES (15): Sitcom dressed up as a film by Larry David. Two cousins (Craig Bierko and Steven Weber) fall out over a jackpot win in Atlantic city. Starts getting mildly amusing when Weber's brain surgeon accidentally emasculates a patient.

CURRENT

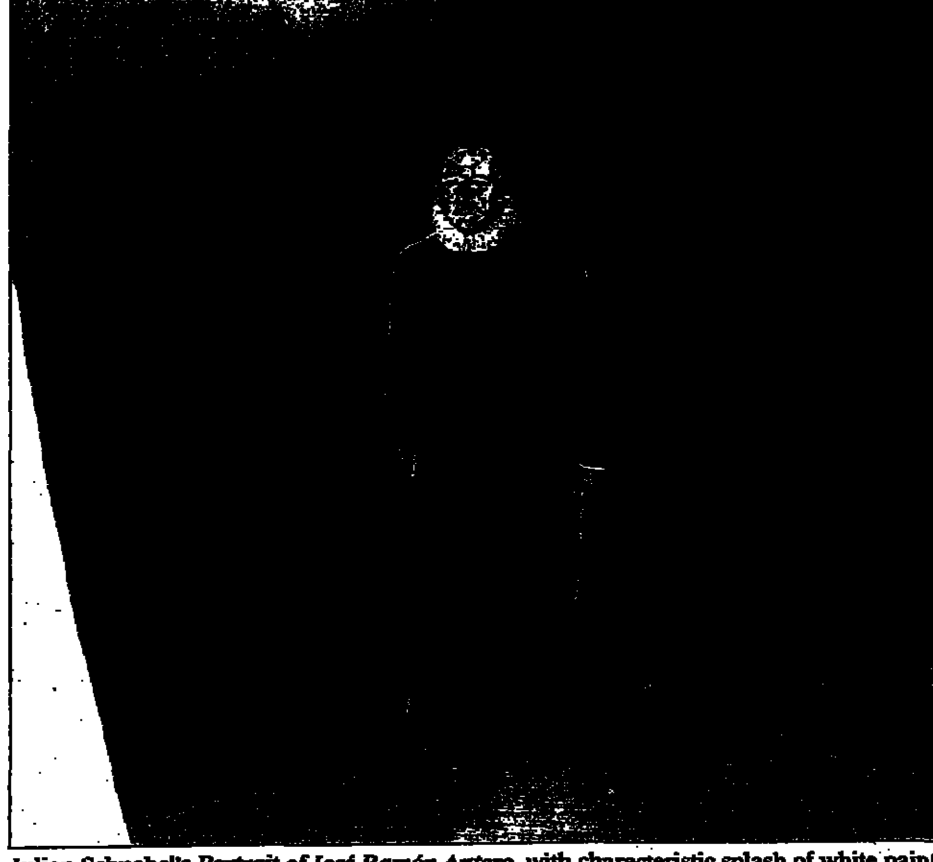
LITTLE VOICE (15): Mark Herman's wonderful version of Jim Cartwright's stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious covers of torch song divas. Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor, Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent sleaze around in the foreground.

THE SIEGE (15): Denzel Washington, Annette Bening, and Bruce Willis trip over each others' bootlaces as they try and defuse an Arab terrorist offensive in Manhattan. Chillingly real, beautifully acted.

π (Pi) (15): Low-budget sci-fi adventure by David Aronofsky that charts the madness of a genius mathematician who is haunted by nightmares and money-mad investors. Sean Gullette is the mesmerising lead.

Grating white hope

VISUAL ART: Whether loved or loathed, Julian Schnabel now demands our respect, says **Rachel Campbell-Johnston**



Julian Schnabel's *Portrait of José Ramón Antero*, with characteristic splash of white paint

Julian Schnabel comes with a pre-packaged reputation. The centrespread of the 1980s New York art world, he was famed as the biggest, brashest, most bombastic artist in America: an habitué of its glitziest parties, a feature of its glossiest magazines. His personality was as publicised as his painting, and to many the soaring career of this Bronx boy made millionaire came to represent all that was achievable through sheer force of self-belief. Schnabel became a symbol of the American Dream.

But the British were reluctant to buy into this transatlantic commodity. When Schnabel last showed here, more than ten years ago, the hackles of the critics were raised. He was the product of a preposterously overinflated American art market, they said. Branded as a consummate marketing man, Schnabel was attacked as an arrogant, opinionated egomaniac; a brash American brat whose work had all the weight of a publicity stunt.

Such vitriol makes one wonder. In the art market Schnabel is a heavyweight. His pieces have been acquired by many of the major galleries, by the Pompidou, the Whitney and the Tate. They have changed hands for more than $1 million. Suddenly, the critics' animosity begins to seem suspiciously similar to the pique of some likely lad out on the town who, meeting a prize fighter in some basement bar, picks a fight and takes a pop at him, just to prove that he's not impressed. Surely any artist who can shake up such extreme reactions, such an inflammatory cocktail of aggression and praise, is worth a closer look?

The abandoned energy of the works in Schnabel's new show at the South London Gallery is striking: epic arenas flailed with paint, three canvases looming against the stark white walls. They were painted for an Ancient Roman temple, the Maison Carré at Nimes. And the context was to provide the inspiration. "I was thinking about gladiatorial contests," Schnabel says, "and about the bullfights at Nimes. When a bull dies it draws in blood across the sand." In his painting *AD*, the red paint smears wounds across the rough, raw cloth.

Working on these paintings in his roofless Long Island studio, hurling a pigment-drenched tablecloth at the surfaces, Schnabel spreadeagled himself against billowing canvases wrenched from their stretchers by sudden winds. "I felt like Captain Ahab, beckoning from the dead," he says. And suddenly it's easy to imagine this thickset man, with upthrust beard and fist aloft, roaring at the tempest and the great white canvas. Suddenly you can imagine the streaking wind and blazoned light, and find their traces in his work. As images and associations stream unstructured from his mind, Schnabel reveals his greatest talent: to reel listeners into his enthusiasms. "Painting is like whaling," he explains, "casting out into the ocean, seeing what you can get. I think of these works as the banners or flags of some vast eternity, of heaven."

But the huge canvases of his triptych are quite different from the mock period portraits which Schnabel displays alongside them in his current show. Full-length Velázquez-style figures gleam sickly behind a lurid glaze. There is a stylistic disparity which breeds doubt. Where dedication to a single passion is often taken as proof of authenticity, Schnabel is threateningly omnivorous. Superficial, many have said. Since he first gained public notice with portraits painted on a surface of china shards — instant Cubism on a cup — he has moved restlessly from Abstraction to Expressionism to Conceptualism and back again. He has recorded a rock album. He has made a film about the graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat's life. He is currently working on another movie, about the Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas. He devours all media with gluttonous voracity, seemingly mindless of the need for native talent or slow-earned skill.



> 'In his London show, Schnabel reveals his greatest talent: to reel listeners into his enthusiasms'

While the broad theme of time informs all the works in this show, Schnabel is dismissive of formulaic practices. The white enamel splashed across the surface of his portraits represents a veil of temporality. And yet it is absent from one of the pictures. "I don't think I need the same tools, or the same kind of solutions, for each painting," he explains.

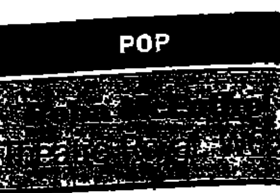
Schnabel simply allows his own energy and enthusiasm, his own violently tossing and turning ideas, to create the binding force for his art. There is a sense that they are valid simply because it was he who made them. And in this sense Schnabel becomes a role model for the Brit-pack artists whose arrogant if ironic self-belief has become characteristic.

Of course the more traditional art appreciator will complain that Schnabel has little ability; that, put quite simply, he can't actually paint. Art colleges all over Britain are turning out students who can represent the nude, who can compose and model and draw better than Schnabel has ever done. But if art is about an individual's expression, about contemporary cultural comment and the innovative interpretation of the mood of an age, then the worse Schnabel seems as a technician or craftsman, the more interesting he becomes as an artist.

● Julian Schnabel, *South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, London SE5 (0171-703 6120) until February 28*

In the country of the damned

POP



If ever a performer embodied the gulf that has separated country music from British popular taste over the past 20 years, it is Reba McEntire. The 44-year-old singer, originally from Oklahoma, released her first album in 1978, since when she has sold more records than either Tammy Wynette or Dolly Parton. But until recently McEntire has remained virtually unknown in this country. "We've got a lot of catching up to do," she informed the audience at the Theatre Royal on Sunday night, at the tail-end of her first British tour.

The ensuing set incorporated many of the key songs from her career. From the opening bars of *Why Haven't I Heard From You*, McEntire assumed command of the fiercely raked stage, while her ten-piece band kept out of the spotlight. Their sound was in the modern country-rock idiom — dominated by guitars, horns and a solid backbeat while the pedal steel and fiddle were relegated to the margins — and it was easy to hear why, virtually alone of her peers from the 1970s and 1980s, McEntire has flourished in the era of Garth Brooks.

McEntire's speciality is the cheating song, and on numbers such as *What's in New England* and *You Lie* her tone was simultaneously accusatory and pained. At her most ostensibly powerful she strayed into the blustery ballad territory of Celine Dion, but there were more intimate moments too, as when she sang *How Blue* as a harmony bluegrass rag, accompanied only by acoustic guitars and fiddle.

Although she wrote none of them, various songs were linked to snippets of autobiographical information, including sentimental descriptions of her father's heart bypass surgery (*The Greatest Man I Never Knew*), and the night in 1991 when seven members of her band died in a plane crash (*For My Broken Heart*).

However, the high point of the show was a searing version of her Grammy award-winning song *Does He Love You*, a duet with backing singer Linda Davis playing the role of the Other Woman. The two women, each ring-fenced in their own circle of light, confronted each other with harshly opposing viewpoints, and a rich vein of highly charged emotion was explored.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Black Velvet



FOR someone whose career has been lived in rock's shadier corners, John Cale has recently been spending a lot of time in the limelight. Within the past month, there has been a BBC documentary, the publication of his autobiography and now his first tour in 15 years. And there's a compilation album out soon.

But, despite all this personal attention, Cale remains better known for his associations than for his solo projects. The most famous of those connections is, of course, with Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground. Press extracts of his book have dwelt almost exclusively on his time with that seminal 1960s band and its figurehead — even the advance publicity for the extracts used Reed's photo, not Cale's.

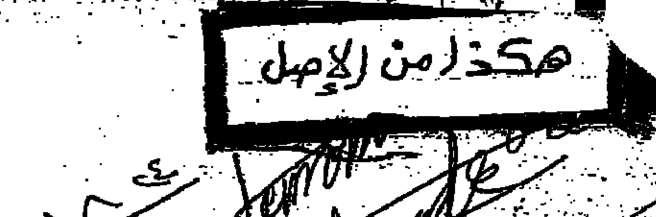
His live show, though, goes some way to righting the balance. At Cambridge's Corn Exchange there was only a passing reference to the Velvets, in a song from the tribute album to Andy Warhol, *Songs for Drella*. Otherwise, Cale's set drew from the mix of the experimental and the classical, of pure pop and punk passion, that has marked his restless musical life.

Cale began with three settings of Dylan Thomas poems. The formal, hurried recitation of the first, set against a jagged piano accompaniment, gave way to the lyricism of the last, *Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night*. Cale's Welsh heritage was further invoked in the lovely *Child's Christmas in Wales*.

But, as always with Cale, the lilt of the rhythms and the easy grace of the melodies mask a darker sentiment than nostalgia. There is a steely-eyed, almost morbid harshness to his songwriting. His lyrics are littered with references to death, dying and hangman's nooses. Cale is not offering comfort to troubled souls: just more trouble.

He was aided by the subtle contributions of Lance Doss and Mark Deffenbaugh, the trill of Deffenbaugh's harmonica and the glissando from Doss's lap steel guitar serving as sound effects to Cale's scenarios. It is impossible not to be captivated by this intense, wise man and his sweet songs about bitter lessons.

JOHN STREET



■ MIME FESTIVAL
Lorca's life and loves

ARTS

■ TOMORROW
All the new films reviewed

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament: PARMINDER K. NAGRA



Age: 23.

Profession: Actress.

Hooray for Bollywood: The most ent in a string of acclaimed stage rformances with companies such Tamasha and Tara Arts came ien she played a reluctant bride *Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings d a Funeral*, an adaptation of a pular Bollywood musical, at the ric Hammersmith last Novem- r. One critic singled her out as "a liciously skilful" romantic come- enne. "The whole kitsch, cheesy le of that show was great fun."

Right place, right time: A classic owbiz lucky break enabled her to k up her Equity card within onths of completing her A levels. was a week into rehearsals for *ie Spirit of Vrindavan*, a new Brit- Asian musical at Leicester Hay- arket, when the lead actress opped out. The director offered e the part and I grabbed it."

Cross casting: Her first London job as as the Princess in *Sleeping eauty* at the Theatre Royal, Strat- rd East. "I was really shocked hen a TV interviewer asked me What's it like being an Asian Sleep- g Beauty?' I was very naive, and had never occurred to me that aving an Asian playing a tradition- ly white role, especially in a pan- , was something unusual."

Crying pays: "In 1995, at the end of really bad six months, I went to audition for *Casualty*. I was inking 'All my friends are at uni- sity and getting on well, so what the hell am I doing with my life?' I arted crying at the end of the audi- ti and the director said 'If you can do that, you can have the part'."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

Men of letters are wordless

Three of the shows taking part in this year's International Mime Festival explore the reputations of literary folk. The most ambitious of the three, **I Weep At My Piano** (BAC), also brings in the artist Dali and the film-maker Buñuel but Federico Garcia Lorca is the man at the heart of it — in love with one or the other of them, and repulsed by both.

This show has a lot going for it. The producing company is Told By An Idiot, leaders in physical theatre; two of its founder members are involved in the production, Paul Hunter as director and the brilliant Hayley Carmichael playing a girlishly boyish Lorca. Naomi Wilkinson's fascinating set includes a high platform pierced by a tree, iron balconies and ladders. Richard Clews and Stephen Harper are accomplished as the gun-toting Buñuel and bald Dali. Yet the production, framed within the scene of Lorca's murder, neither builds logically towards this point nor indicates persuasively what bound the three together in their student days.

They lark about a bit and tell merrily blasphemous tales. The others sneer at Lorca for his gypsy poetry, abandon him with contempt and reappear to march him to his death. There are moments of humour but no indication that Lorca was anything more substantial than a sweet puppy.

Nor does the substance of Max Jacob's life emerge precisely in **Faces of the Night** (ICA) but all we need to grasp is that this French Surrealist writer and Catholic convert was haunted by demons. *Everybody Gets The Demons They Deserve* is the show's subtitle, which sounds neat but cannot be true: not even the most guilt-ridden Jew deserves to be afraid of the Gestapo.

However, Frank Soehnle (of Figurentheater Tubingen) creates a weirdly marvellous menagerie of nasty little persecuting creatures. Operating these 13 rubber or wooden devils, he sits hunched in a wilderness of torn paper while they nudge his cheek, nestle into his shoulders, ingratiate themselves into his life and rip it apart. In one extraordinary sequence a crone-faced demon pulls the fingers off a man-sized figure and crams them one by one inside its insatiable maw. Harsh lighting and harsher music

MIME FESTIVAL

add to the sense of nightmare.

But for traditional mime (ie. mimicry without words) bubbling with inventive comedy, watch out for future reappearances of Paolo Nani's **The Letter** (BAC and Purcell Room). Nani, directed by Nullo Facchini, has drawn on *Exercises in Style*, the ingenious book by Raymond Queneau that reports a banal encounter in more than a hundred different ways. Nani's version brings him on stage to a table where he drinks a glass of wine, spits it out, grimaces at a photograph, writes an angry letter, goes off to post it and discovers his pen was out of ink.

Every detail of this scenario figures in the 15 or so variations Nani gives us. He uncorks the bottle twice in *Repetition*, rolls his eyes at the wonder of uncorking in *Surprises*, puts bottle to mouth in *Vulgar*, after drinking it in *Horror* turns into Frankenstein's Monster. There is a sense of being trapped in an endless loop where life is always the same yet never the same and increasingly hysterical.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN KINGWILL



Getting physical: Hayley Carmichael plays a girlishly boyish Lorca with Richard Clews as a guitar-playing Buñuel in *I Weep At My Piano* at BAC

In control of chaos

If any company were going to kill off mime's namby-pamby flower-sniffing associations once and for all, it had to be the Russian clown troupe Derevo. Picture a gang of Millwall supporters dressed in toyshop Dracula kit and wielding a packet of dried figs and you are getting close. Add to that a moderate sprinkling of pyrotechnics, the grace and musculature of an Olympic kick-boxing squad and the behavioural tendencies of a host of angels out on a hen night and you might just be able to imagine their performance.

Even though their latest show **Once** sees them making cute, the ominous cloud still hangs low above the Queen Elizabeth Hall stage; you can't shake the feeling that something, somewhere is going horribly wrong.

Yet *Once* is a surprisingly playful sortie into the world of clowning. It follows the amorous fortunes of a café-owning Betty Boop character as she is courted by both a tramp clown and a sinister aristocrat. As can be divined from the title of the show, this is a voyage into the land of fairytales, most of which appear in the mind of the clown as he dreams alternately of wooing his dolly bird and the terrible misfortunes that will befall her if she accepts his rival's suit.

While the narrative teeters permanently on the brink of incomprehensible but oh-so-aesthetic chaos, what really makes *Once* special is the combination of outstanding physical characterisations and an uncanny skill for hopscotching across genres. It would be easy to commend individual performances, but any member of the cast could have played any of the other characters with similar aplomb, regardless of gender.

In *Once*, character springs from a series of minutely observed physical tics, stuck on to the raw human fabric like sequins of personality. Betty Boop wiggles eloquently. Cupid stoops in embarrassment and dreams of becoming St Sebastian. The onstage atmosphere can change in an instant from Casablanca to Carnival. This is an exceptional piece of theatre from a company at the height of its powers.

HETTIE JUDAH

Women get fresh

THEATRE

Valentine's Day; a flatshare in London. Undies everywhere, and centre-stage a huge, half-gnawed chocolate cake. Out on to the stage pads Dana (Sophia Ashen) in yeti slippers, picks up the paper, throws away the sports section, settles snugly down. In staggers Helen (Jane Colenutt), a postprandial mess, trying to eat cake, down painkillers and locate clothes all at once, only to reappear in power suit and perma-smile. We're in twentysomething territory.

Cold Feet and Wet Toes (Finborough, SW10) is a new two-hander, also written by Ashen and Colenutt. It is a bittersweet tale of lost illusions, narrowing choices and enduring friendship. Dana is the sensible one, an overworked doctor with a serious boyfriend, scared of being single but absolutely hysterical at the prospect of marriage — all supermarket loyalty cards and no fun, she shudders. Helen is the wild child, PR bitch from hell by day, vulnerable good-time girl by night. Both are suffering from premature midlife crises.

Dovetailed with their stories are those of their fiftysomething counterparts, Helen's mother Andrea (Ashen) and her friend Rose (Colenutt). Andrea is on her fourth divorce and determined to celebrate with a freedom party, at which she steals her daughter's new flame. Primly suburban Rose has all but given up, unwisely resorting to a dodgy dating agency to save her from singledom.

Finding your way through life is a never-ending task, then: the script offers no more startling insight. With innumerable short and sometimes samey scenes, it is also slightly too long. But the pleasure is in the details. Funny and fresh, raunchy and rude, the sassy dialogue is peppered with the buzz-words of affluent urbanites.

Ashen and Colenutt deliver charming performances, and director Alison Brown gets the pace just right, aided by Gabriella Csanyi-Wills's minimalist but effective set. Familiar it may be, but it's a superior sort of sitcom.

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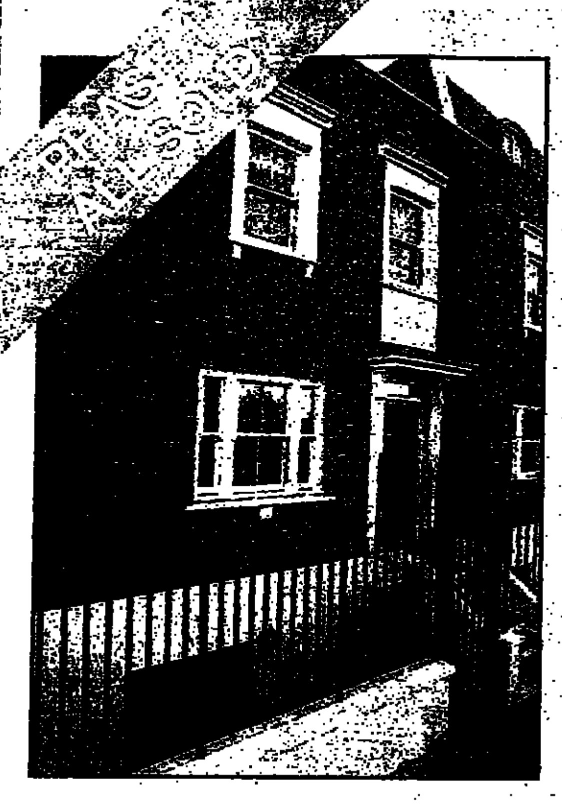
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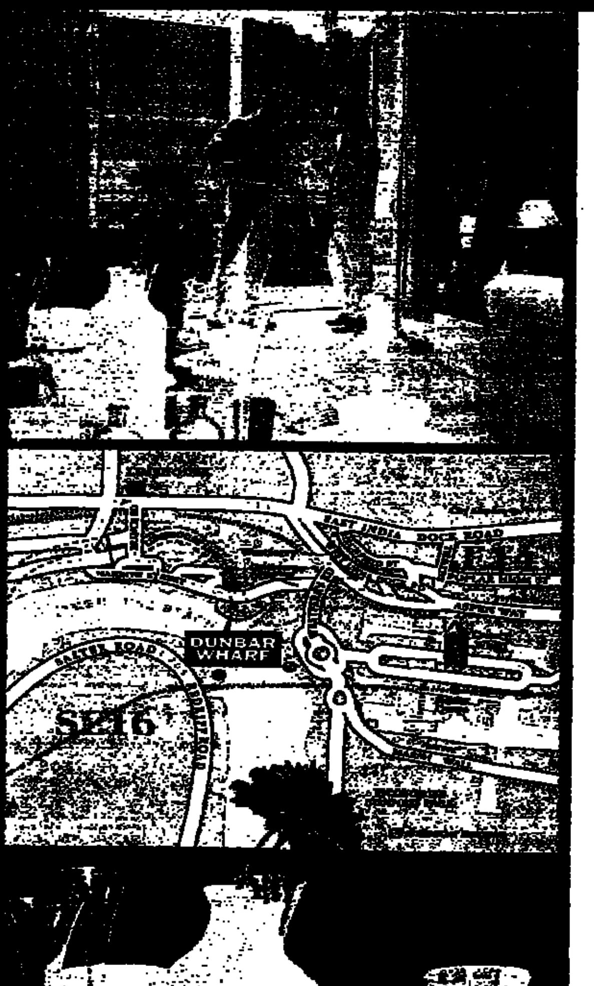
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Rachmans need not apply

Letting a property will soon be less complicated thanks to a new scheme, says Rachel Kelly

Successive British housing ministers have faced the same challenge for the past decade: how to revive the private rented sector. It is a peculiarity of our housing market that the private rented sector is one in which relationships between landlords and tenants are often fraught, making this sector smaller in the UK than elsewhere.

A scheme launched this week should help to ease that tension, reduce the need for development of the green belt and cut down the number of empty properties.

Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, said at the inauguration of the National Approved Letting Scheme (NALS): "The lettings industry has suffered from a poor image; we want this scheme to work so that cowboy outfits know their time is coming to an end. There are many good, private landlords and this scheme will ensure their rights are respected and upheld."

Ted Watts, chairman of Empty Homes Agency (EHA), the housing charity that will administer the letting scheme, said: "The scheme will increase incomes of property owners, reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for the homeless, reduce the need for greenfield development and reduce the level of crime by having fewer empty properties."

The main difference between the new scheme and the present arrangements is a three-stage complaints-redress system, and ultimately an independent arbitration service if landlords are unhappy with their letting agent.

Tenants may use the internal complaints procedure and mediation if they are unhappy with the letting agent, but only landlords are eligible to proceed to the arbitration scheme if a complaint is not amicably resolved. The other difference is one of degree. This is a detailed code of practice which will enforce higher standards.

At least 3,000 of the 13,000 letting agents working in the sector are likely to join up because they are members of the professional bodies that have backed the scheme. It is hoped that the other 10,000 will sign up, at a cost of £120 plus VAT when consumers begin to demand the higher standards of NALS agents.

Simon Agace, chairman of Winkworth, London's largest chain of agents, says he will instruct all his 35 franchisees to join. "Of course, the independent professional bodies have codes of practice for letting agents, but this is different. It is more forceful and more user-friendly. It is entirely new. It will change the marketplace."

There is nothing in the scheme that can do anything about tenants who never intend to pay rent and the misery of landlords chasing their rent through the courts. But the extra care that the code imposes on agents to interview prospective tenants should help to eliminate some of the worst offenders. Nor can the scheme deal with problems arising from rent paid by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Local authorities can withhold money from agents to the fury of landlords, many of whom have refused to let their properties to social security tenants. Conversely, tenants will be reassured by the knowledge that NALS agents will manage the tenancy professionally by applying standards contained within the scheme.

But the Government's backing will help those who doubt a Labour Government's commitment to a vibrant, private rented sector. Their fears were heightened before Christmas when Ms Armstrong announced plans to limit increases for Britain's 250,000 fair rent tenants by applying a formula linked to the retail prices index.

Her move dismayed some of the existing landlords and bodies such as the British Property Federation, which argued against such interference in an open market. However, regulatory tenants are a small part of the market — many are elderly and no new regulatory tenancies are being created. The letting scheme is aimed at the mainstream market and not the sector affected by the proposed rent controls.

At the launch of the scheme at the Royal Society of Arts, Ms Armstrong reaffirmed the Government's commitment to assured shorthold tenancies, the main vehicle for letting, which has done most to reinvigorate the sector, and her commitment to the private rented sector in general. The scheme should prove a welcome successor to the assured shorthold tenancies and reinforce their success.



HOW THE SCHEME WORKS

AGENTS who belong to the National Approved Letting Scheme (NALS) subscribe to a code of practice that will ease the path of landlords, Ben Wakeham writes. The scheme will be administered by the Empty Homes Agency (EHA), which wants empty property brought back into use. It is backed by the Housing Corporation, which funds housing associations, the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA), the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers (ICVA), the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Jeremy Diment, of the EHA, says: "When deciding to let your house or flat, having a good agent to handle the letting saves time and minimises stress. NALS is a self-regulatory body and the scheme sets out defined minimum service standards, which NALS agents must provide, backed up by the agents' regulatory bodies. This scheme will make it easier by providing a list of do's and don'ts for letting agents, with the backing and help of professional bodies to provide administrative back-up."

If you want to let a property, a NALS agent will arrange a visit to advise on rights and responsibilities, what action to take if the property is mortgaged, advice on insurance and safety checks. The agent will show the property to potential tenants and choose one with your agreement. He will provide a report on the condition of the property and a list of contents, fill in a tenancy agreement and either take a deposit to protect against damage or agree another form of guarantee. Finally, he will transfer bills into the tenant's name subject to the limitations imposed by the Data Protection Act.

DURING the tenancy, the agent will collect the rent and visit the property to see that it is being looked after and arrange to have routine maintenance work carried out up to an agreed limit. He will respond to tenant inquiries and ensure prompt payment of money owed.

Before the tenancy ends, the agent will give advice on the client's options, including reviewing the rent. If the client wants to end the tenancy, he will serve the correct notices and check the condition of the house and discuss any repairs before refunding the deposit.

Mr Diment says: "This is a big step forward. Lettings and management standards will be greatly improved. The fact that the main bodies have joined should give the public confidence." The scheme has a complaints redress system backed by professional indemnity insurance. A money protection scheme for clients will be operated by NALS agents that are members of ARLA, ISVA, NAEA and RICS.

More information from NALS and EHA, 195-197 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NE; 0171-828 2266; fax, 0171-828 7006; e-mail, eha@mcmail.com).

SMART MOVES

A FLAT in Palace Court, Notting Hill, W2, which was home to the Duchess of York last summer, is available to rent. The four-bedroom house dating back to 1889 makes the perfect stop-over for the seasoned traveller: it is close to the new Heathrow shuttle service and yet is still near the heart of Notting Hill. The flat is for rent through Cluttons Daniel Smith Hyde Park office for £2,700 a week.

■ SIR Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of N M Rothschild & Sons, one of the world's oldest independent financial institutions, has bought 6 Cheyne Walk for £12 million.

■ A HOUSE designed by Robert Lutyens, the son of Sir Edwin Lutyens, is for sale. Ridgemead House in Englefield Green, Surrey, was commissioned by Captain Woolf Barnato in 1938. The design of the house and gardens is in the Spanish Mission style. Captain Barnato drove for the Bentley Motors Racing Team in the 1920s and won at Le Mans in 1928, 1929 and 1930 in the Speed Six. He became the chairman of Bentley Motors before it was taken over by Rolls-Royce in 1931. Knight Frank is selling the house for £2 million.

■ VISCOUNT LINLEY is selling his house on the Caribbean island of Mustique. Les Jolies Eaux was designed in 1971 for Princess Margaret by Linley's great-uncle Oliver Messel. In 1988 the Princess gave the six-bedroom home to her son. Stuart N. Siegal, the president and managing director of Sotheby's International Realty, which is marketing the property, says: "The house is a casual retreat with an important heritage of ownership and design." The house is on offer for £2.6 million.

■ A CONVERTED watermill in East Anglia is the first property in Britain to be offered for sale exclusively in euros. The owner is a former City oil trader. The mill, built in 1814, is set in an acre of watermeadow and has been refurbished. The house is for sale for £700,000.

BEN WAKEHAM

Carl Evans on a promising point-to-point trainer

Dalton making rapid strides through ranks

Strike-rates have become a fashionable assessment of a trainer's worth, which makes the winners-to-runners ratio of point-to-point trainer Heather Dalton worth noting.

Mrs Dalton, based near Telford, in Shropshire, saddled 22 winners from 33 runners last season and also recorded five seconds, two thirds and two fourths. That is a strike-rate to be proud of in any sport at any grade and there are few easy races at present in the competitive business of point-to-pointing.

Little wonder people are comparing Dalton to her friend, Venetia Williams. Some well-known owners have taken note too and have placed their young stock under her care. John Hales, forever to be associated with One Man, has sent her a five-year-old half-brother to the famous grey, while Alan Brazier and bloodstock agent David Minton are two others who have enjoyed success under Rules and now patronise her yard.

They also gain in having a champion to partner their horses in races — Dalton's success helped her husband, Andrew, become joint-national champion last season with 33 wins, a figure matched by Herefordshire's Julian Pritchard.

This time last year Mrs Dalton, 32, was about to embark on her third season as a livery yard proprietor and had 11 horses under her care. Now her string numbers 24, expectations are high and numerous young horses are undergoing a course in excellence at an academy where their mental attitude is considered as important as fitness.

"We are careful not to run horses when they are not right," Dalton said while reflecting on her success. "We get a lot worked out before we get anywhere near the racecourse."

Comparisons with Miss Williams do not faze her — they both rode as amateurs and worked together for former trainer John Edwards. "We don't get much time to chat, but I phone her when she has a winner and I admire what she has achieved," Dalton said.

She knows many people expect her to be taking on her friend before long, but said: "I have no plans yet to train under Rules, but I don't say it will never happen."

Attention to detail and a near paranoid search for the best in each horse drives her forward, helped by her husband and his sister, Lorna, whose unofficial role as assistant trainer is vital. They spearhead a yard where horses get the best available.

Rugs look as though they have just been unwrapped, tack shines and stables sparkle — not surprising since many have just been built. Demand for a place at the yard is outstripping her ability to get staff, but she copes by working late into the night, juggling her role as mum to a three-year-old daughter with being matron to a yard of mainly young horses. Their good manners under saddle are a notable aspect of this tuition.

"We do have a lot of young horses and they are susceptible to all sorts of problems, but I like training them, bringing them through and teaching them to use themselves properly," she said. "We spend time putting them through their paces on the flat so they develop and use their bodies."

Solba, an ex-chaser who won six times for the yard last season and has became an ambassador for his trainer, is fit and ready to run again while the evergreen Shoon Wind, now 16, is sleek in coat and looking half his age.

At the other end of the age range, watch out for the five-year-olds, Azzante and Atoski, this season, while Oh So Droll, O'Flaherty's and Garrison King are others to note.

Point-to-pointing has given National Hunt racing a stream of talent recently, mostly in the form of young jockeys and horses, but Mrs Dalton could one day emerge as a formidable trainer.

SEAN PAGET



Dalton with Shoon Wind, ridden by her husband, Andrew, at their Shropshire farm

Fracture threatens Princeful's career

JENNY PITMAN was yesterday only "hopeful" that her high-class staying hurdler, Princeful, will be able to race again. X-rays show that he fractured a pedal-bone in his left hind leg when brought down on his first run over fences at Doncaster on Monday.

The trainer, who initially thought the gelding had sprained a joint, said Princeful had "a comfortable night" but added: "The prognosis for a return to racing, while we are hopeful, must be guarded."

A fractured pedal-bone is a potentially career-ending injury and caused the retirement of three-time Gold Cup winner Arkle in 1968.

Pitman had high hopes that Princeful would be able to win the millennium Gold Cup, and had even entered him for this year's race before he had jumped a fence in public.

Princeful won the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in 1998 and gained another grade one win, after a prolonged duel with Deano's Beeno, in the Smurfit Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot last month.

Richard Dunwoody, who rode Princeful, aggravated an old neck injury when the pair were brought down. The former champion jockey was forced onto the sidelines for ten weeks with the same injury last summer. However, after receiving treatment yesterday he plans to ride out tomorrow before returning to race-riding at Ascot on Friday.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER

1.30 Radomsko
2.00 River Dawn
2.30 CASTLE OWEN (nap)
3.00 Lord Khalice
3.30 Simple Arithmetic
4.00 Supreme Troglodyte

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 COLLIER BAY.

GOING: SOFT (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.30 PUSSY PIE BIRTHDAY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,934: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

1 R BRYNKIR 48 (96 Partnership) D Murray Smith 5-11-5 .... A Maguire –
2 04 CARIAD CYMRU 18 (Mrs R Evans) R Evans 5-11-5 .... O McPhail (5) [illegible]
3 FU GEMSTONE 20 (Mrs D Haine) Mrs D Haine 6-11-5 .... J Culloty –
4 6 GET THE POINT 13 (R Houlton) C Bellings 5-11-5 .... D Gallagher 61
5 JEAN PIERRE 50F (P Barnes) J Banks 6-11-5 .... M A Fitzgerald –
6 6/ KING COOL 1015 (Mrs J Martin) K Bailey 8-11-5 .... N Williamson –
7 KINGS ASSEMBLY 39F (Evertogalius) J G Smyth-Osbourne 7-11-5 .... W Marston –
8 0 KOMASTA 20 (Mrs D Butler) Mrs D Butler 5-11-5 .... Mr H Hawkey (7) –
9 RADOMSKO 706F (J Ali Racing Stables) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-5 .... B Fenton –
10 RHEINBOLD 109F (Chasers 2) Mrs A E Johnson 5-11-5 .... S Durack –
11 1/70- SIR LUNCHALOT 355 (D,F) (Fanfare Partnership) P R Webber 6-11-5 .... J Osborne –
12 P TALK OF A NOSE 14 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-5 .... C Honour (7) –
13 00 VARNISHING DAY 41 (Mrs J Rynes) Miss Z Dawson 7-11-5 .... C Maude –
14 7 DMOWSKI 12 (D,S) (F Sanders, Ian R George) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-13 .... C Llewellyn 43
15 P MY LOST LOVE 11 (A Hollingsworth) A Hollingsworth 4-10-7 .... Gary Lyons –
16 06 NIGHT FIGHTER 5 (N Mason) N Mason 4-10-7 .... H Oliver (5) 64
17 52 BOW BELLS 12 (J Joseph) J Joseph 4-10-2 .... J Goldstein (5) 31

BETTING: 4-5 Dmowski, 8-1 Radomsko, Bow Bells, 10-1 Brynkir, King Cool, 16-1 Rheinbold, Sir Lunchalot, 20-1 others.

1998: DAWN LEADER 7-11-11 C Llewellyn (4-6 fav) J Old 13 ran

Brynkir ran out 5 out in novice hurdle won by Burundi at Leicester (2m, good to soft). Cariad Cymru 9l 4th of 10 to Prussia in selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, soft), previously 35l 10th of 14 to Rush in claiming hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Get The Point 31l 6th of 18 to Ussborn in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, soft). King Cool 13l 6th of 21 to Dawn Leader in national hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Komasta 69l 14th of 19 to Premier Generation in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft) with Gemstone (levels) unseated rider. Sir Lunchalot 74l 10th of 13 to Tessral in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Varnishing Day 61l 17th of 18 to Desert Power in novice claiming hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft), previously beaten a distance 9th of 13 to Alnosaam in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft). Dmowski beat Bow Bells (6lb better off) 24l in 6-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, heavy). Night Fighter 35l 6th of 11 to Fine-wood in novice hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft), previously 45l 7th of 13 to Simply Gifted in 3yo novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft). Bow Bells beaten a distance 5th of 10 to Sadlers Secret in novice maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy) on penultimate start.

DMOWSKI, a very easy winner on his racecourse bow, will be hard to beat in a modest affair

2.00 HUNTINGDON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,248: 3m) (8 runners)

1 2P-212 COLLIER BAY 18 (S) (W Scott) J Old 9-11-10 .... T J Murphy [illegible]
2 -P21PP MY WARRIOR 18 (F,S) (Mrs G Wardley) M Campion 11-11-10 .... B Powell 69
3 1/P/P- GALLANT LORD 494 (D,G) (P Allen) Mrs L Jewell 10-11-4 .... T Peoples (7) –
4 21-2PP GRAND CANYON 67 (D,S) (Mrs H Parry) P Eccles 6-11-4 .... D Byrne –
5 F1-R MR PERKUPP 61 (D,S) (Mrs M Keegan) Lord Tyrone 8-11-4 .... R Widger (5) –
6 d24P-2 RIVER DAWN 65 (Garlands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 7-11-4 .... G Bradley 123
7 24P1-P ROWE'S RIVER 46 (D,S) (J Perriss) K Bailey 7-11-4 .... N Williamson –
8 1-F SIR SAMUEL 77 (D,S) (Ms L Agran) K Bailey 6-11-4 .... Mr R Forristal (5) –

BETTING: 10-11 Collier Bay, 7-4 River Dawn, 5-1 Sir Samuel, 14-1 Rowe's River, 25-1 Grand Canyon, 33-1 My Warrior, Mr Perkupp, 50-1 Gallant Lord.

1998: ORGAN RECITAL 9-11-4 M Brennan (16-1) O Brennan 15 ran

Collier Bay 3l 2nd of 7 to Nipper Reed in novice chase at Newbury (2m 1f, soft) with My Warrior (levels) pulled up; previously beat Distant Echo 1¼l in 4-runner novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft). My Warrior beat Paddys Return 2½l in 6-runner novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, soft) in October. Grand Canyon pulled up in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good to soft), ¾l 2nd of 6 to Tiger Lake in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good) on reappearance. Mr Perkupp refused in novice chase at Exeter (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). River Dawn ¾l 2nd of 10 to Village King in novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good). Rowe's River behind when pulled up before last in novice chase won by Danger Flynn at Towcester (2m 6f, soft). Sir Samuel always behind, fell 5 out in novice chase won by Executive King at Kempton (3m, soft).

COLLIER BAY should have too many guns for Irish point-to-point winners Rowe's River and Sir Samuel

2.30 WOODHURST HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,248: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 21P-2P OLD ROUVEL 60 (CD,G) (Mrs R Cowell) D Murray Smith 8-11-11 .... D Gallagher 118
2 435-11 CASTLE OWEN 25 (CD,G,S) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 7-11-2 .... R Thornton 115
3 0/P5-P ALLEZ WIJINS 23 (G,S) (Mrs C Hanbury) N Henderson 10-10-10 .... M A Fitzgerald –
4 21-228 MOLSUM 42 (S) (M Smith) Mrs P Sly 6-10-10 .... W Marston 100
5 005-60 CLAIRESWAN 34 (F,G,S) (M Barrett) C Dwyer 7-10-2 .... V Smith 48
6 62P-32 BESSIE BROWNE 19 (BF,CD,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-10-0 .... A Maguire [illegible]
7 P4206- BELLROI 453 (F,G) (Mrs E Bousquet-Payne) Mrs M Jones 8-10-0 .... M Richards –
8 21463- DARU 282 (CD,S) (Mrs J Hughes) R Hollinshead 10-10-0 .... Gary Lyons 112

Long handicap: Bellroi 9-9, Daru 9-8.

BETTING: 2-1 Castle Owen, 4-1 Old Rouvel, 5-1 Bessie Browne, 7-1 Molsum, 8-1 Allez Wijins, Daru, 12-1 Claireswan, 16-1 Bellroi.

1998: LUCIA FORTE 7-11-12 Mr R Wakley (4-1) K Bailey 10 ran

Old Rouvel pulled up in handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good to soft); previously 2¼l 2nd of 5 to Flying Gunner in handicap hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good to soft). Castle Owen beat Blazing Storm 18l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft) with Bessie Browne (8lb better off) 19l 3rd; previously beat Yours Agoodun 7l in 15-runner handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Allez Wijins pulled up in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft), previously 23l 5th of 9 to Spendid in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, heavy). Molsum beaten a distance last of 6 to Tessral in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft); previously 13l 2nd of 4 to World Express in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Claireswan 67l 13th of 17 to Tilty in handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good). Bessie Browne ½l 2nd of 5 to Dark Kestrel in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Bellroi 9½l 6th of 9 to Noble Tom in handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good); previously 49l last of 9 to Scrgl in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good). Daru 53l 3rd of 5 to Merry Masquerade in novice handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, heavy), previously 31l last of 6 to Rich Life in handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm).

CASTLE OWEN, upped 9lb for his Boxing Day victory here, may still be ahead of the handicapper

3.00 GAMLINGAY HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,055: 3m) (5 runners)

1 4-4U23 HAWAIIAN YOUTH 19 (F,G,S) (D Cornerford) G McCourt 11-11-10 .... D Fortt (3) [illegible]
2 34-12F MALAWI 21 (B,D,G,S) (W Bethell) J Jefferson 9-11-9 .... G Tormey 105
3 2-3246 EARLY DRINKER 21 (G,S) (S Channing-Williams) O Sherwood 11-11-7 .... J A McCarthy 109
4 2P323- SELATAN 289 (D,G,S) (Sunlight Racing) D Caro 7-11-0 .... G Bradley 109
5 1P56FU LORD KHALICE 14 (D,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 8-10-13 .... R Thornton 88

BETTING: 2-1 Malawi, 11-4 Hawaiian Youth, 7-2 Early Drinker, 4-1 Selatan, 10-1 Lord Khalice.

1998: RED LIGHTER 9-10-5 C Llewellyn (7-4 fav) J Old 8 ran

FORM FOCUS: Hawaiian Youth 20l last of 3 to Indian Run in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, heavy), previously 5l 2nd of 13 to Zaggy Lane in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m, heavy) with Lord Khalice (3lb better off) fell. Malawi 22l 2nd of 6 to Better Times Ahead in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m 2f, heavy) on penultimate start. Early Drinker 64l 6th of 12 to Boxie Madden in handicap chase at Stratford (3m, heavy) with Malawi (5lb worse off) fell, previously beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Lancastrian Jet in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, soft). Selatan 16l 3rd of 7 to Parahandy in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good), previously 20l 2nd of 10 to Paperprincing in novice chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft). Lord Khalice modest 3rd when unseated rider 3 out in 8-runner novice chase won by Kingdom Of Shades at Lingfield (3m, heavy).

MALAWI, an early casualty latest, had run well his first two starts this season

3.30 TETWORTH HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,600: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 36-3UU SIMPLE ARITHMETIC 6 (B,S) (Racing Club KCB) K Bailey 11-12-0 .... N Williamson 100
2 P/12/P YANKIE LORD 36 (BF,S) (Boys In Red) S Sherwood 7-11-7 .... G Bradley –
3 33P0-6 CAWARRA BOY 19 (S) (Mrs M Kenyon Holden) E L James 11-11-0 .... J R Kavanagh 99
4 4-P252 RIVER BAY 20 (B,D,S) (Riverwood Racing) Miss H Knight 8-10-12 .... A Maguire 114
5 54P-4 CAPTAIN WALTER 84 (W Start) J Old 9-10-7 .... T J Murphy 55
6 2236P2 ANOTHER COURSE 20 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Mann) C Mann 11-10-0 .... Mrs C J Mann [illegible]
7 -4F0OU DAYS OF THUNDER 18 (C,F,G,S) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 11-10-0 .... J Culloty 101
8 F4342- CRANE HILL 261 (B) (R Hamilton) Simon Earle 9-10-0 .... C Maude 108
9 PP31/6 LITTLE ROWLEY 51 (F) (J Judd) Miss Z Dawson 10-10-0 .... J Magee –

Long handicap: Another Course 9-13, Days Of Thunder 9-10, Crane Hill 9-10, Little Rowley 9-2.

BETTING: 6-4 River Bay, 9-2 Another Course, 6-1 Simple Arithmetic, 7-1 Yankie Lord, 8-1 Crane Hill, 10-1 Cawarra Boy, 14-1 Captain Walter, 20-1 others.

1998: NELTEGRITY 6-10-6 W Marston (4-1) Mrs P Sly 8 ran

FORM FOCUS: Simple Arithmetic unseated rider in novice handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, soft), 11½l 3rd of 17 to Brother Of Iris in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good) on reappearance. Yankie Lord pulled up in handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good to soft), previously 3l 2nd of 7 to Puzzle Box in handicap chase at Naas (2m 40yd, good to soft). Cawarra Boy beaten a distance 6th of 8 to Native Fling in novice handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 54l 7th of 9 to Laytonthelme in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, soft). River Bay 5l 2nd of 10 to Cardinal Rule in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft), previously 32l 5th of 10 to Stanagore Warrior in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, heavy) with Another Course (4lb worse off) pulled up. Captain Walter 53l 4th of 6 to Nordance Prince in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m, good). Another Course neck 2nd of 5 to John Drumm in amateur handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, heavy). Days Of Thunder unseated rider in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m, soft), previously 28l 7th of 15 to Black Statement in handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good). Crane Hill 1½l 2nd of 5 to Beyond Our Reach in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to soft), previously 7¼l 4th of 10 to Cool As A Cucumber in handicap chase at Hereford (2m, soft). Little Rowley beaten a distance 6th of 8 to Kingsmark in conditional novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Miners Rest ½l in 3-runner novice handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, firm).

CRANE HILL remains a maiden but is not without ability and is capable of going close here

4.00 OFFORD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,682: 2m 5f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 111411 SPRINGFIELD SCALLY 13 (G,S) (Mrs M Hall) S Gollings 6-11-10 .... M A Fitzgerald 71
2 5244/2 SUPREME TROGLODYTE 20 (Troglo) C Morlock 7-11-5 .... Mr R Forristal (5) 92
3 504P5- KNOCKAROO 287 (G) (A Anderson) O Winne 8-11-4 .... W Marston 64
4 2F6/3/ FABULOUS MTOTO 1488F (Dave Breakspear) M Usher 9-11-3 .... L Harvey –
5 -530P2 ONTHEBOIL 17 (P Byrne) B Curley 8-11-2 .... J P Spencer –
6 4-0550 NORMANBY ROAD 32 (G) (N Oliver) G McCourt 8-10-13 .... H Oliver (5) 81
7 221443 HITCHHIKER 20 (G) (Miss J Slater) P Woodhouse 5-10-9 .... B Harding [illegible]
8 P5-104 WHISPERING COURT 25 (S) (Court Jesters Partnership) A Turnell 9-10-9 .... M Griffiths (5) 72
9 0-0033 PRECIOUS ISLAND 20 (J Ellis) J Pickering 6-10-7 .... J Goldstein (5) 86
10 0-3000 KARADENI 18 (Mrs J Galpin) R Hollinshead 5-10-6 .... Gary Lyons 53
11 0PP04- LANG WHANG 301 (Mrs N Bowlby) Mrs A J Bowlby 8-10-1 .... A Maguire 49
12 A00-PP MAGIC LAMP 39 (F) (Mrs J Irvine) Miss Z Dawson 9-10-0 .... C Maude –
13 0/00/5 THE NED 25 (M Perkins) A Kelleway 8-10-0 .... N Williamson –

Long handicap: The Ned 9-11

BETTING: 3-1 Springfield Scally, 11-2 Ontheboil, Hitchhiker, 13-2 Whispering Court, 7-1 Supreme Troglodyte, 8-1 Normanby Road, 12-1 Precious Island, 14-1 others.

1998: DARU 9-10-9 Gary Lyons (5-1) R Hollinshead 19 ran

Springfield Scally beat Sail On Sid 2l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Market Rasen (3m, heavy), previously beat Demi Century ½l in 11-runner maiden hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, soft) with The Ned (24lb better off) 37l 5th. Supreme Troglodyte 3½l 2nd of 10 to Attic Ground in novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft) with Precious Island (9lb better off) 17l 3rd. Knockaroo 11l 5th of 10 to Rossmore Girl in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good). Fabulous Mtoto 11l 3rd of 5 to Out Ranking in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good); previously 72l 6th of 14 to Make A Stand in maiden hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft). Ontheboil neck 2nd of 7 to Beeper's Gale in handicap hurdle at Naas (2m, heavy). Normanby Road 66l 13th of 20 to Windross in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft), previously 23l 5th of 10 to Sikander A Azam in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Hitchhiker 22l 3rd of 14 to Flat Top in handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft), previously 17l 4th of 8 to Radiance in novice handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, good to soft) with Karadeni (2lb better off) 66l last. Whispering Court 23l 4th of 10 to Castle Owen in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft), previously 27l 8th of 12 to Cashaplenty in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft). Karadeni beaten a distance 7th of 10 to Shagraan in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Lang Whang 8½l 4th of 15 to Airdrom in novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good).

The ex-Irish ONTHEBOIL goes well in the soft and is interesting on his first run for Barney Curley

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
J Old	6	19	31.6	M Fitzgerald	17	72	23.6
N Henderson	11	35	31.4	N Williamson	11	59	18.6
G Hubbard	13	56	23.2	D Byrne	6	33	18.2
A Turnell	3	13	23.1	J McCarthy	12	67	17.9
K Bailey	17	78	21.8	J Osborne	8	50	16.0
Mrs D Haine	7	41	17.1	C Llewellyn	7	46	15.2
D Sherwood	9	57	15.8	L Harvey	3	22	13.6
D Nicholson	8	54	14.8	D Gallagher	9	71	12.7
C Mann	3	21	14.3	G Bradley	8	65	12.3
N Twiston-Davies	8	60	13.3	R Thornton	7	59	11.9

☐ Catflax will revert to hurdling after a disappointing debut over fences at Wetherby last month. The seven-year-old flopped badly on his first outing for Andy Turnell in a novice chase and it was later reported he had broken a blood vessel. Turnell said yesterday: "He won't be going chasing again this season, it's gone by us now. As far as I know he had never broken blood vessels before but the horse seems a lot better in himself now and will run over hurdles in the next couple of weeks."

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wolverhampton: 2.10 Weeheby. 2.40 Papua. 3.40 Sharp Edge Boy, Sounds Lucky.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.50 (6f) 1, Another Nightmare (T Williams, 5-1); 2, Tachycardia (16-1); 3, Ivor's Deed (11-2). Squire Corrie 5-2 fav. 9 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. D Barker. Tote: £5.30; £1.20, £3.20, £1.20. DF: £98.90. CSF: £66.53. Tricast: £378.28.

1.20 (7f) 1, Trois Elles (A Polli, 25-1); 2, Perchancer (6-1); 3, Mispiint (12-1). Glastonbury 100-30 fav. 10 ran. NR: Banningham Breeze. ¾l, 5l. R Spicer. Tote: £68.30; £6.80, £1.80, £5.90. DF: £232.70. CSF: £157.79. Tricast: £1,753.81.

1.50 (1m) 1, Annie Apple (Dane O'Neill, 4-1); 2, Golden Syrup (5-4 fav); 3, Nicholas Mistress (8-1). 7 ran. 6l, 5l. R Hannon. Tote: £5.20; £2.40, £1.50. DF: £4.10. CSF: £7.00.

2.20 (1m 4f) 1, Banbury (J Gotobed, 4-1; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Noukari (7-4 fav); 3, Mystagogue (3-1). 8 ran. ¾l, 4l. C Dwyer. Tote: £4.90; £2.70, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £6.60. CSF: £10.25.

RICHARD EVANS

2.50 (1m 2f) 1, Bank On Him (J Quinn, 8-1); 2, Roi De Danse (11-1); 3, Byzantium (4-1). Philistar 9-4 fav. 8 ran. NR: White Plains. 6l, 1¼l. G L Moore. Tote: £7.10; £1.50, £2.70, £1.10. DF: £38.50. Trifecta: £280.60. CSF: £82.09. Tricast: £368.02.

3.20 (6f) 1, Baptismal Rock (J Quinn, 11-10 fav); 2, Half Tone (5-1); 3, Frederick James (9-2). 7 ran. NR: Hurgill Lady, Tancred Times. 4l, ¾l. A Newcombe. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.90. DF: £3.80. CSF: £6.78.

3.50 (2m) 1, Royal Roulette (A Clark, 7-2 fav); 2, Sherif (4-1); 3, Hank (9-1). 9 ran. 5l, 2½l. Miss B Sanders. Tote: £6.00; £1.20, £1.80, £3.20. DF: £24.20. CSF: £17.44. Tricast: £110.94.

Jackpot: not won (£10,325.75 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).
Placepot: £74.10. Quadpot: £5.10.

Southwell abandoned — course waterlogged.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.40 Samata One. 2.10 Alsahib. 2.40 Punishment. 3.10 Flying Officer. 3.40 Sounds Lucky. 4.10 Erinvale.

GOING: STANDARD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

1.40 NETHERTON MAIDEN STAKES
(£2,788: 1m 100yd) (9 runners)

101 (6) 2-03 ARC 9 F Jordan 5-9-0 .... R Perham [illegible]
102 (1) 0-04 BACKHANDER 7 M Wading 7-9-0 .... Sophie Mitchell 64
103 (7) 3 BRUFF STREAM 14 M Johnston 5-9-0 .... J Fanning 30
104 (4) 064- MAGICAL SHOT 33 (BF) D Carroll 4-9-0 .... R FitzPatrick (5) 35
105 (3) PICEA'S PAST 12J J Neville 5-9-0 .... C Carver (7) –
106 (2) 200- SAMATA ONE 140 (B,BF) W Haggas 4-9-0 .... W Ryan 79
107 (9) 43 SEVEN O SEVEN 6 P Cundell 6-9-0 .... S Whitworth 32
108 (5) BAN GARDAI E Alston 4-8-9 .... T Sprake –
109 (8) 63-0 SCINTILLATING SOUND 16 S Bowring 4-8-9 .... C Teague (3) 52

9-4 Arc, 11-4 Bruff Stream, 3-1 Seven O Seven, 5-1 Magical Shot, 8-1 Samata One, 16-1 Scintillating Sound, 25-1 Ban Gardai, 33-1 others.

2.10 TIPTON CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,089: 1m 4f) (9)

201 (7) 4-24 ALSAHIB 14 (CD) W Muir 6-9-10 .... Martin Dwyer 54
202 (5) 35-2 ABULJOOD 18 (B) P Haslam 4-9-5 .... C Lowther 68
203 (9) 215- FRAME OF MIND 71J (B,D,G,S) F Jordan 4-9-5 .... R Perham –
204 (6) 34-0 TIME CAN TELL 12 (G) A Juckes 5-9-3 .... V Slattery 72
205 (2) /4-0 WEEHEBY 19 (V,G) Miss A Stokell 10-8-10 .... P Bradley (7) 31
206 (8) 0/0- MENDELUCI 20J (B,D,F) L Lloyd-James 7-8-6 .... T Sprake –
207 (1) 526- MONACO GOLD 207 (BF,D,F,S) D Cosgrove 7-8-6 .... S Carson (7) 67
208 (3) 05-0 NUIT D'OR 7 (C) M Waring 4-8-6 .... R Price [illegible]
209 (4) 63-5 POINTE SOPHIE 14 (BF,C,S) M Brittain 8-8-2 .... D Mernagh (5) 73

7-4 Alsahib, 11-4 Abuljood, 6-1 Time Can Tell, 8-1 Monaco Gold, 10-1 Pointe Sophie, 12-1 Frame Of Mind, 16-1 Weeheby, Nuit D'Or, 25-1 Mendeluci.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Jarvis, 11 winners from 34 runners, 32.4%; R Ingram, 6 from 22, 27.3%; M Prescott, 25 from 112, 22.3%; J Pearce, 18 from 93, 19.4%; M Johnston, 44 from 236, 18.6%; J Eustace, 3 from 18, 16.7%; P Haslam, 27 from 181, 14.9%; P Harris, 7 from 48, 14.6%.

JOCKEYS: W Ryan, 12 winners from 69 rides, 17.4%; P Bradley, 5 from 32, 15.6%; D Sweeney, 17 from 115, 14.8%; J Tate, 13 from 92, 14.1%; T McLaughlin, 20 from 145, 13.8%; C Lowther, 18 from 138, 13.0%; A Polli, 3 from 24, 12.5%; S Whitworth, 24 from 207, 11.6%.

2.40 TOTE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP)
(£6,970: 1m 4f) (12)

301 (4) 054- PUNISHMENT 25 (D,F,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 8-10-0 .... T Sprake 96
302 (7) 134- RANDOM KINDNESS 22 (CD,F) R Ingram 6-9-12 .... P Fredericks (7) 90
303 (9) 02-2 SWAN HUNTER 18 (CD,G,S) D Cosgrove 6-9-11 .... W Ryan 87
304 (1) 20-4 PAPUA 18 (D,F) I Balding 5-9-9 .... S Whitworth 73
305 (6) 300- DIAMOND FLAME 60 (C) P Harris 5-9-7 .... P Roberts (3) 89
306 (12) 2-33 BE WARNED 7 (V,BF,C,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-9-5 .... A Polli (3) 84
307 (5) 000- JAMAICAN FLIGHT 25J (CD,F) Mrs S Lamyman 6-9-3 .... C Teague (3) 93
308 (2) -111 CHINA CASTLE 2 (CD) P Haslam 6-9-0 (6ex) .... C Lowther 66
309 (8) 13-1 FAILED TO HIT 14 (V,CD,F) N Littmoden 6-8-9 .... J Tate 92
310 (11) 361- RAYIK 22 N Berry 4-8-8 .... N Carlisle 88
311 (3) -122 NOUKARI 1 (D,BF) P Evans 6-8-5 .... T G McLaughlin 80
312 (10) 50-2 KING PRIAM 9 (B,D,G) M Polglase 4-7-10 .... J Quinn [illegible]

7-2 China Castle, 5-1 King Priam, 6-1 Failed To Hit, 7-1 Swan Hunter, 8-1 Papua, Be Warned, 10-1 Noukari, 12-1 others.

3.10 DUDLEY CONDITIONS STAKES (£6,098: 6f) (7)

401 (3) 311- NOMORE MR NICEGUY 32 (G,G) E Alston 5-9-9 .... T Sprake 98
402 (1) 300- PALACEGATE TOUCH 98 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-8-7 .... P Bradley (7) 84
403 (6) 021- PRIMO LARA 30 (D,F,G) P Harris 7-9-5 .... P Roberts (3) 94
404 (5) 05-6 STATE OF CAUTION 8 (V,CD) K Burke 6-9-5 .... D Sweeney 97
405 (2) 5-24 CLASSY CLEO 4 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 4-9-0 .... C Cogan (7) [illegible]
406 (7) 111- ADELPHI BOY 22 M Chapman 3-8-7 .... S Righton (7) 84
407 (4) 14-1 FLYING OFFICER 11 (C,D) M Prescott 3-8-3 .... N Pollard (3) 93

9-4 Primo Lara, 5-2 Classy Cleo, 7-2 Flying Officer, 5-1 Nomore Mr Niceguy, 12-1 Adelphi Boy, 14-1 Palacegate Touch, 25-1 State Of Caution.

3.40 BILSTON SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £1,861: 5f) (9)

501 (7) 003- LADY CARBRON 67 (CD) J Berry 9-0 .... P Bradley (7) 84
502 (8) 00-0 GOCHINOS 9 S C Williams 8-12 .... C Lowther 55
503 (1) 02-2 KEEN HANDS 9 (V) Mrs N Macauley 8-12 .... R Price [illegible]
504 (3) 630- SHARP EDGE BOY 111 (V) E Alston 8-12 .... T Sprake 65
505 (9) 564- SOCIALIZER 29 (BF) W Jarvis 8-12 .... D McGaffin (7) 53
506 (6) 60-0 SOUNDS LUCKY 18 (V) N Littmoden 8-12 .... T G McLaughlin 45
507 (2) 0-00 TAZ MANIA 9 (V) S Bowring 8-12 .... C Teague (3) 46
508 (5) 005- LIGHT BREEZE 44 G L Moore 8-7 .... J Fanning 33
509 (4) 060- RUSSIAN VELVET 35 M Quinn 8-7 .... Martin Dwyer 28

9-4 Sharp Edge Boy, 3-1 Keen Hands, 5-1 Socializer, 7-1 Lady Carbron, 8-1 Light Breeze, 10-1 Sounds Lucky, 14-1 Taz Mania, 20-1 others.

4.10 BIRMINGHAM HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,775: 7f) (7)

601 (4) 4-38 MISS TAKE 14 (V,CD) P Evans 9-7 .... C Cogan (7) 52
602 (3) 01-4 WEET U THERE 11 (CD) R Hollinshead 9-6 .... P M Quinn (7) [illegible]
603 (7) 0-21 ERINVALE 11 P Haslam 9-5 .... C Lowther 56
604 (5) 026- IPCRESS FILLY 21 J Eustace 9-4 .... J Tate 40
605 (1) 2-21 BARON DE PICHON 14 (C) N Littmoden 9-2 .... J Quinn 49
606 (6) 50-0 BUNTY 18 Mrs S Lamyman 8-7 .... C Teague (3) 58
607 (2) 00-3 MISS DOODYBUSINESS 18 C Thornton 7-10 .... N Carlisle 33

5-4 Baron De Pichon, 4-1 Erinvale, 5-1 Miss Take, 8-1 Miss Doodybusiness, 10-1 Weet U There, Ipcress Filly, 16-1 Bunty

Huntingdon hinges on inspection

PROSPECTS for the resumption of turf racing today rest with Huntingdon, which is the subject of an early-morning inspection.

Officials at the track were full of hope that the fixture would beat the weather and Hugo Bevan, the clerk of the course, reported yesterday: "We could have raced today. There is a nice drying wind and the going is no worse than soft. But, in view of the fact that there is heavy rain forecast overnight, we will hold a precautionary inspection at 7.30am."

Whatever the fate of Huntingdon, National Hunt racing looks set to go ahead at Taunton tomorrow. A course spokeswoman said yesterday: "We've got a bit of drizzle at the moment, but the forecast is for a dry day tomorrow and prospects are good."

Bob Davies, Ludlow's clerk of the course, was confident that tomorrow's other jumps meeting will go ahead. He said: "We should be fine. The course is raceable today and it has been virtually all the time as it is so free-draining."



THE 1999 MACALLAN INTERNATIONAL PAIRS

THE world's most prestigious bridge invitation pairs event, the Macallan International Pairs (in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*) gets under way today in London. Macallan, makers of the single malt whisky, has been sole sponsor for the past five years, and involved with the championship throughout the decade.

The tournament has several distinctive aspects: most importantly, there are no screens used at the tables. This allows spectators to sit close to their bridge heroes, and put themselves in their shoes — deciding whether they would have taken the same action.

Three years ago, at the request of the players, Macallan developed a set of simple system guideline to ensure that the complexity of a partnership's bidding system did not, in itself, provide an innate advantage. With an expanding global audience, in the world's national and dedicated bridge media, and on the Internet, the relatively simple auctions are more accessible to players of all standards, and allow the skill and judgment of the players to come to the fore.

Even the dress code is unusual: experts and tournament pros are not renowned for their sartorial elegance, but at The Macallan all the players appear in evening dress — even for the mid-afternoon session on the middle day.

Last year, the Norwegians Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness won with a record score. Only one pair has ever successfully defended a title, but the Helgemo-Helness team is tipped to emulate this feat, despite what is, arguably, the strongest ever field.

Ladies pairs, who finished second and third last year, could also make history if they manage to reach the top spot — none has yet managed to win. Attention will also be on *Zhuang Zejun and Xu Hongjun, the first pair to be invited* from China.

Younger pairs — in their thirties and forties — have dominated this event recently, but perhaps this year the spotlight will fall on the oldest competitor, Boris Schapiro, 89, and his partner Irving Gordon, to lift the trophy — an 80-year-old bottle of Macallan. They enjoyed a scintillating year in 1998, winning not only the world senior pairs title in Lille, but also the British open teams championship, the Gold Cup.

Having raced horses, and played tennis at Wimbledon, Schapiro turned his attention to more cerebral pursuits, collecting his first world bridge championship in 1954 as part of the British team that won the Bermuda Bowl. He then won a second world crown in the mixed teams of four the next year. Schapiro won the Macallan international pairs back in 1964 with his long-time partner, Terence Reese, and was runner-up with Irving Gordon six years ago.

In the United States last year, interest in bridge surged again after a scientific report linked the game to improved mental health and increased resistance to mental ailments.

Schapiro is evidence that the game is truly a gymnasium for the mind. Convinced that he is playing a better game today than 40 years ago, he has only one message for his opponents this week: youngsters of all ages had better look out.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DELUBRUM
a. A pun
b. A temple
c. Ritual bathing

DISTUTOR
a. More dangerous
b. To remove as tutor
c. To mislead

ERUKE
a. A caterpillar
b. A wig
c. A North Sea breakwater

EXPUGN
a. To capture
b. To vilify
c. Qualified as a legionary

Answers on page 40



BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

More wins

Today I publish two more decisive games from the elite tournament at Wijk aan Zee in Holland. After early rounds the leader is the Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, with world champion Garry Kasparov in hot pursuit.

White: V Kramnik
Black: A Yermolinsky
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	d6
5	Bg5	Nbd7
6	e3	b6
7	Nge2	Bb7
8	a3	Bxc3+
9	Nxc3	h6
10	Bh4	0-0
11	f3	c5
12	dxc5	dxc5
13	0-0-0	Qe7
14	Be2	Rfd8
15	g4	Ne5
16	Rxd8+	Rxd8
17	Rf1	Bc6
18	Bg3	Ng6
19	Bd3	Qd7
20	Be2	Qb7
21	h4	Nh7
22	Rd1	Re8
23	Nb5	Bxb5
24	cxb5	Nf6
25	g5	hxg5
26	hxg5	Nd5
27	Qd2	Qe7
28	e4	Nc7
29	f4	e5
30	f5	Nf4
31	Bxf4	exf4
32	g6	Qxe4
33	gxf7+	Kxf7
34	Bh5+	Kf8
35	Qd6+	Qe7
36	Bxe8	Qxd6
37	Rxd6	Kxe8
38	a4	Ke7
39	Rg6	Nd5
40	Kd2	Ne3
		Black resigns

White: Ivan Sokolov
Black: Alexei Shirov
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	Bf4	Bg7
5	e3	c5
6	dxc5	Qa5
7	Rc1	dxc4
8	Bxc4	0-0
9	Nf3	Qxc5
10	Bb3	Nc6
11	0-0	Qa5
12	h3	Bf5
13	Qe2	Ne4
14	Nd5	e5
15	Rxc6	bxc6
16	Ne7+	Kh8
17	Nxe5	Bxe5
18	Nxc6	Qd2
19	Qxd2	Nxd2
20	Bxe5+	f6
21	Bc3	Nxf1
22	Kxf1	Bd3+
23	Kg1	Rac8
24	Ne7	Rxc3
25	bxc3	Be4
26	c4	Kg7
27	Nd5	Rb8
28	Nc7	a5
29	Ne6+	Kf7
30	Nd4	Ke7
31	f3	Bb7
32	Ba4	Kd6
33	Bb5	Kc5
34	a4	Bc8
35	Kf2	Rb6
36	Nb3+	Kb4
37	Nd4	Ba6
38	Nc6+	Rxc6
39	Bxc6	Bxc4
40	e4	Bb3
41	f4	Bxa4
42	Bd5	Bc2
43	e5	fxe5
44	fxe5	Kc5
45	Bg8	h6
46	Ke3	a4
47	e6	Kd6
48	Kd4	Bb3
49	Kc3	Bxe6
50	Bh7	Bf7
51	Kb4	Ke5
52	h4	h5 White resigns

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

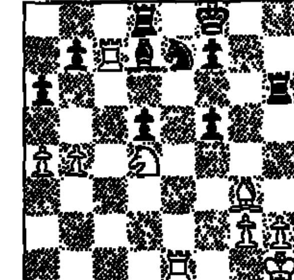
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Rublevski — Macieja, Polanica Zdroj, 1998.

How did White manage to exploit the weak squares in his opponent's position to win material?

Solution on page 40



FOOTBALL

Redknapp wants Lee as part of reshuffle

BY GEORGE CAULKIN AND STEPHEN WOOD

HARRY REDKNAPP, the West Ham United manager, last night signalled his intention to reinvest swiftly a significant slice of the £7.5 million that the club received from the sale of John Hartson to Wimbledon last week by making an inquiry about Rob Lee, Newcastle United's England international.

Having taken Marco Negri on loan from Rangers until the end of the season, a midfield player and a right back remain Redknapp's priorities. Though Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle manager, identified Lee, 33 next month, as a crucial cog in his plans shortly after taking control at St James' Park, a Newcastle source said that a bid of around £2 million would be sufficient to take the player to East London.

Lee, who signed a new three-year contract only last summer, has continually maintained his desire to remain in the North East for the rest of his career, despite near-constant rumours to the contrary since his arrival from Charlton Athletic in 1992. "I have always wanted to stay at Newcastle," he said after agreeing his new deal.

A move to the club that he supported as a boy would prove a considerable pull, however, and while he knew nothing of West Ham's interest when contacted last night, Lee retains a home close to Upton Park.

Gullit will reply to Redknapp's bid by renewing his courtship of Eyal Berkovic, West Ham's Israel international midfield player. Any swap arrangement would need to include a £2 million settlement in West Ham's favour, although whether Redknapp would wish to lose Berkovic after disposing of Hartson is open to question.

The FA Premier League has imposed a suspended fine on Aston Villa over their refusal to pay Brighton £200,000 for Gareth Barry, their 17-year-old defender, and diverted some of Villa's television money to the Nationwide League third division club.

Villa had paid Brighton an initial £150,000, as ordered by a transfer tribunal, but then refused to hand over the £200,000 that they were told to pay when Barry made 20 appearances for the club, claiming that the youngster was overpriced and demanding that the tribunal revealed its reasons for the ruling.

The Premier League Board stepped in, gave the £200,000 to Brighton and handed Villa a suspended fine of £16,000, which will be called in if Villa do not pay up when Barry reaches other landmarks.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the Manchester United striker, yesterday reiterated that he finds it preferable to be a reserve at Old Trafford rather than a first-team regular elsewhere, in the light of suggestions that West Ham are preparing an approach.

Solskjaer, scorer of ten goals this season, is behind Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke in the pecking order, which could damage his Norway international future, but the £5.5 million-rated striker said: "This is too big a club to leave behind and I want to win as much as I can with United."


Lee: transfer speculation

Defender going for a song

Russell Kempson on the warm weekend welcome awaiting Watford's recruit from Nigeria

Pre-match entertainment nowadays knows no bounds. Skydivers plummet to earth, cheerleaders strut their funky stuff and Cyril the Swan, Swansea City's manic mascot, flies in the face of authority. On Saturday, supporters of Watford will be treated to a unique event — the first public showing of the Atilogwu, a traditional Nigerian dance, at an English football ground.

Before the Nationwide League first division match against West Bromwich Albion, Vicarage Road will reverberate to the sounds of Africa via the public-address system as the Atlanta group performs its ten-minute routine — barefooted, barechested (men only, if the weather allows) and in full national costume. Bells and drums will add to the scene.

For Ben Iroha, the Nigeria and Watford defender, the occasion holds special significance. It was arranged specifically for his benefit by Yibosc, the Young Igbo Social Club, which is based in North London. Iroha, 29, was born in Uyo, a village in eastern Nigeria, of the Igbo tribe, one of the country's three largest.

"Some of our members went to the World Cup finals and really enjoyed it," Uzo Onuora, a Yibosc spokeswoman and the sister of Iffy Onuora, the Swindon Town striker, said. "When we heard that Ben had joined Watford, we wanted to do something to make him feel welcome here and honour him as a good representative of the Igbo community abroad."

The entertainment at Vicarage Road, after which Iroha will be presented with a commemorative plaque, dovetails neatly with Watford's vigorous stance against racism in the sport and Yibosc's hoped-for future links with the Kick Racism Out Of Football Campaign. "We'd like to think Saturday can have a dual purpose," Onuora said.

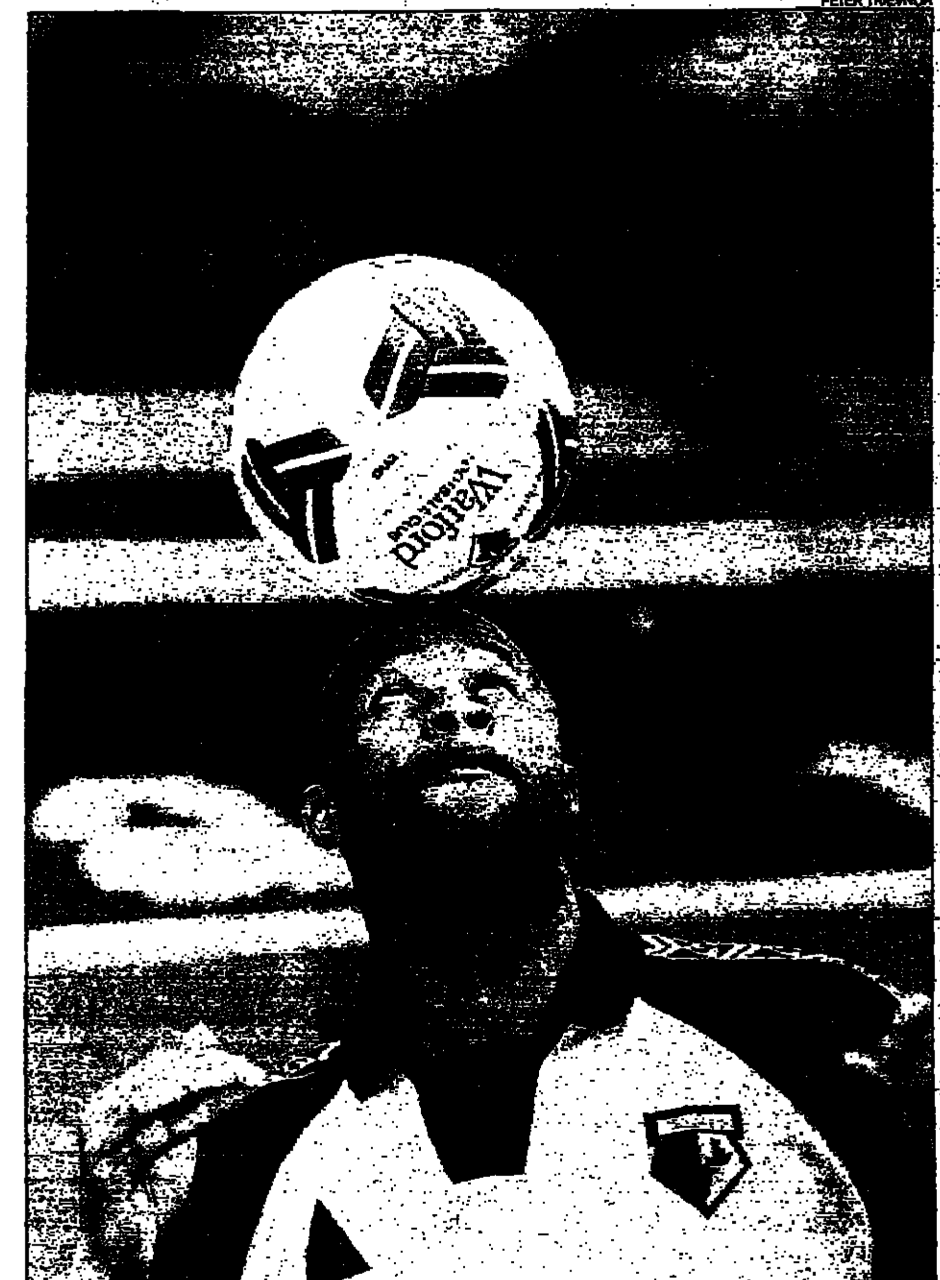
Iroha, who has made fleeting appearances in the past two World Cup finals, began his career with Flash Flamingos in Nigeria and has played for ASEC Mimosa, of Ivory Coast, Vitesse Arnhem, in Holland, San Jose Clash and Washington DC United, in the United States, and Elche, the Spanish second division club. A trial with Bristol Rovers earlier this season proved fruitless — "I don't think they could afford me," he said — before he joined Watford.

"Everyone has been great to me, they have helped me settle," he said, "but I miss my family so much. I have never been away from them for so long." His wife, Patsy, and children Larissa, three, and B J, six months, will travel to England from Washington next month.

The Igbo tribe is well represented in English football, if not by birthplace then by parentage, through Efan Ekoku, of Wimbledon, Ugo Ehiogu, of Aston Villa, and Onuora and George Ndah, of Swindon. Nwankwo Kanu, Arsenal's new £4 million signing from Internazionale, will swell the group further when his work permit is processed and Yibosc has already sent a letter of welcome to Highbury, a stone's throw from its headquarters.

Iroha helped to ease Kanu, 22, through his early years at the I Nationale club in Owerri. "He always came to me. I gave him courage," Iroha said. "He was a young boy then but he is a man now. Saturday will bring a big honour for me and I just hope it is not too cold for the dancers. If we can win as well, it will really make my day."

PETER TRIEVNOR



Iroha shows the skills that have brought him to Vicarage Road — and a unique reception

'It is a big honour. I hope it's not too cold for the dancers'

Howey rises from depths of despair

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

THE realisation began to crystallise at Bradford last August. In the midst of a run in the Newcastle United reserves, Steve Howey was kicked with such force that he thought his leg was broken.

It was the night before Kenny Dalglish's departure from the club; another new manager to impress, a further two weeks aching on the treatment table, more needles, more frustration. A fortnight without training and the muscles in his calves — where a jigsaw of scars is the grisly token of two years ravaged by injury — were beginning to weaken.

There was another strain. Last season had been "stop-start", this was unproductive and he "couldn't picture a time when I'd be able to play two games in a row without being knocked back for a month". While packing it all in crossed his mind, that solution had been considered before, when dye was being flushed around his body to find a possible blockage in his veins, or after his umpteenth operation.

His wife, Angela, and the Newcastle medical staff had kept his chin up then.

He could continue as he was — train, injury; play, injury, drown his sorrows — but what would that solve? Instead, after talks with Ruud Gullit — "he's very much a hands-on manager" — Newcastle's most accomplished central defender was dispatched to Lilleshall for rehabilitation. He had suggested a spell abroad, the club mentioned an army camp; it was a compromise.

He recalled the advice that Dalglish had once given him, about having one chance in football, and made a lifestyle decision of some import. While "never a massive drinker", Howey, 27, thought of himself as the kind of person who, "if I went into the pub, I'd have to have a drink".

At Lilleshall, he simply stopped. "I was surprised at how well I coped without it," he said. Newcastle's Christmas party — "complete with sheep's heart and Mein Kampf — was remarkable for another reason. Howey turned up four hours late. He was fit and he was sober. Although not teetotal, his consumption of alcohol is now "ridiculously less" and the effects have been dramatic.

Briefed to mark Duncan Ferguson, newly signed from Everton, in one of his first training sessions back from Lilleshall, Howey was named as captain for the visit of Wimbledon last November. "Not bad for a Sunderland lad," he was to chuckle later. Eight consecutive league appearances later — his most profitable sequence since the start of 1996 — he remains in the role.

Gullit described his return as akin to making a "£5 million signing". Comfortable on the ball, blessed with pace, Howey offers a calm authority rarely associated with defenders on Tyneside. Newcastle's last link to the pre-Kevin Keegan era, he admitted that he should "easily have made 300 appearances" for the club he joined 13 years ago.

FA CUP

Keegan initiated the switch from centre forward and he, and both his successors, have touted Howey's England credentials. Howey has made four appearances, the last, three months before Euro 96, against Bulgaria. He will not broach the subject. As Dalglish once said: "His only aim should be to get on the training ground tomorrow."

Assuming he makes that journey without mishap from now until Saturday, he will play against Bradford City in the FA Cup. All he hopes for is to stay in the team, although given that he has not agreed a new contract — his present deal expires this summer — his future is uncertain.

"I'd like to stay here, no doubt about it. I don't really want to move from the North East," he said. That Liverpool, Sunderland and Arsenal are eyeing his position may seem confusing considering his injury record, but not when you see him striding into the centre circle or stretching for a clearance. Not when he answers a question, sitting in a pub, and reaches for the menu. And orders coffee.

Mabbutt calls it a day

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GARY MABBUTT has been forced to retire from football after failing to recover from a serious injury. The former Tottenham Hotspur defender had spent four months in rehabilitation after surgery on a fragmented left knee and had been considering offers from other clubs after Tottenham decided against renewing his contract last summer. Those plans have now been abandoned on the advice of a specialist.

Mabbutt, 37, was found to be diabetic in his early teens and once lapsed into a coma when he missed an insulin injection. He had his cheekbone shattered in a collision with John Fashanu in 1993 and broke his leg on the opening day of the 1996-97 season.

But highlights of his career, 16 years of which were spent at White Hart Lane, included a Uefa Cup winner's medal in 1984 and lifting the FA Cup as captain of Tottenham in 1991. He made 618 appearances for Spurs, scoring 36 goals, but the injuries caught up with him.

On his retirement, Mabbutt said: "It was a hard decision to make after my 21 years — five at Bristol Rovers and 16 at Tottenham — as a professional footballer because I have enjoyed my career immensely, but the demands and rigours that professional football makes on the body would continue to see my knee degenerate."

The final FA Cup third-round replay is contested tonight and if the priority for Notts County is to move out of the relegation zone in the Nationwide League second division, then Sheffield United need to win the tie at Meadow Lane to freshen up their first division campaign.

With Cardiff City visiting the victors in the fourth round on Saturday, United must fancy their prospects of making the last 16 of a competition in which they reached the semi-finals last season. Steve Bruce, the Sheffield player-manager, has resisted attempts by Everton to buy Graham Stuart, the attacking midfield player, while his side is in the Cup.

County, who were promoted from the third division last season, are desperate for reinforcements after a run of seven defeats in their past eight matches.


Mabbutt: serious injury

Joachim enjoys life at top

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THIS time last year, Gareth Barry had yet to sign professional terms with Aston Villa, Lee Hendrie was in the reserve side and Julian Joachim moped around Villa Park under the sobriquet "Super Sub". The idea that, within 12 months, this trio would underpin an assault on the FA Carling Premiership title would have been laughed out of the West Midlands.

Yet the challenge of Villa, rejuvenated since John Gregory succeeded Brian Little as manager and with fresh young talent in key positions, shows no signs of wilting. "We are playing some great football at the moment and I believe we can stay up there," Joachim said after scoring two goals in the 3-0 win against Everton on Monday night to put them level on points with Chelsea, the leaders on goal difference.

Joachim's finishing on both occasions testified to a player on top of his game and must have impressed Glenn Hoddle, the watching England coach. His first strike was conceived and executed with speed and precision in a crowded penalty area while the second recalled Ian Wright at his most adroit. In just two touches he escorted a through-pass by Hendrie away from the recovering defender and shot powerfully beyond Thomas Myhre.

Paul Merson completed the victory, having replaced Ian Taylor for his first appearance in nearly two months.

With seven goals in the past ten games, Joachim is enjoying the best spell of his career. He had started only three of the previous nine fixtures but has developed a useful partnership with Dion Dublin that operates on traditional lines — a wriggler with pace playing off a target man. "He has been a tremendous asset to us," Gregory said. "His career might have drifted for 18 months, but he is back now."

Whether he has done enough to earn a call into the England squad for the match against France on February 10 is questionable, however. Hoddle has pledged to look at fresh talent before the European championship qualifying tie against Poland at the end of March, but may decide that Emile Heskey, the Leicester City striker, is first in that particular queue.


Joachim: precision

BOWLS

Holt leads rise of new blood

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

SEEDED players have had a torrid time at the world indoor championships on the portable rink at Potters Leisure Resort in Hopton-on-Sea.

Ten of the 16 seeds, who were given byes into the second round, fell at the first hurdle — two more than last year, when the challengers' success was unprecedented. Of the top ten seeds, Hugh Duff, Andy Thomson, Mervyn King, Wynne Richards, Graham Robertson and Rowan Brassey lost in their opening games and yesterday Paul Foster, the champion, was defeated by David Holt, an English qualifier.

John Price, the chairman of the Professional Bowls Association (PBA), claimed credit for the wind of change blowing through the sport.

"A few years ago, people said that these championships were a closed shop," he said yesterday. "Since we have opened the PBA to all comers, and have increased the number of qualifiers for the major events, a large number of new faces have appeared on the scene and the standard has risen."

Foster, though, was disappointed with his form. "I was garbage, absolutely pathetic. I couldn't get within two feet of the jack," he said.

SQUASH

SRA switch puts Open in doubt

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

FOR the first time in 77 years, the British Open championships, the most prestigious in the world game, could be missing from the squash calendar because of problems attracting sponsorship for the tournament.

The Squash Rackets Association (SRA) announced yesterday that it had decided to postpone the event, which was scheduled to take place at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham from March 24 to 28, to a possible date in the autumn.

"It is increasingly clear that sponsors are more attracted to events held in the second half of the year," Stuart Courtney, the SRA chief executive, said. "We are considering revised dates in the autumn."

That would depend on finding another slot in the increasingly complex separate agendas of the men's Professional Squash Association and the women's International Squash Players Association, within which the dates of the British Open, which traditionally ends the European season, are sacrosanct.

Last year, the men's title was won by a Briton for the first time in a quarter of a century when Peter Nicol, of Scotland, defeated Jansher Khan, of Pakistan.

FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

HOPTON-ON-SEA: World indoor championships: Singles: Second round: L Garett (Eng) bt S Glasson (Aus) 7-6, 4-7, 7-3, 7-2. R Newman (Eng) bt R Brassey (NZ) 7-6, 1-7, 7-4, 7-3. **Third round:** D Holt (Eng) bt P Foster (Scot) 7-1, 7-6, 7-5.

ALL ENGLAND MIXED INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Egham Trophy): **Zone semi-finals: Zone one:** Concordia bt Selston 91-73. Thornaby bt Darlington 92-56. **Zone two:** Cumbria bt Copeland 90-74. Ryedale bt York 94-66. **Zone three:** Spalding bt Lincoln 72-65. Nottingham bt Leicester 100-57. **Zone four:** Cambridge Chesterton bt City of Ely 79-70. Wellingborough bt St Neots 94-74. **Zone five:** Roundwood bt Brownston Hall 89-80. North Walsham bt Gallow 87-79. **Zone six:** Beccles bt Haverhill 85-70. Tilbury bt Stonyhill 89-74. **Zone seven:** Havering bt Tye Green 76-69. Picketts Lock bt Marshes 95-71. **Zone eight:** Cherwell bt Herga 84-73. Desborough (Maidenhead) bt Herts 92-56. **Zone nine:** Tamworth bt Solihull 94-57. Swindon Westlecot bt Chipping Norton 90-74. **Zone ten:** Cambridge Park bt Mole Valley 92-62. Crystal Palace bt Cyphers 89-56. **Zone 11:** Egham bt Whiteknights 87-58. Charlton Park bt Longmeadow 65-63. **Zone 12:** Folkestone bt Oyster 91-66. Angel (Tonbridge) bt Dartford Stone Lodge 82-80. **Zone 13:** Worthing bt Egerton Park 73-65. Eastbourne bt Wealden 95-66. **Zone 14:** Solent bt Banister Park 72-69. Moonfleet bt Dorchester 77-74. **Zone 15:** Northavon bt Clarne Dunbar 101-60. Taunton Deane bt Mid Devon 88-62. **Zone 16:** Teignbridge bt Isca 109-68. Plymouth Mayflower bt Newquay 79-70.

ENGLISH WOMEN'S INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Vivienne Trophy): **Zonal finals:** Cumbria wo Concordia. York bt North Cave 82-66. Leicester bt Melton Mowbray 86-85. Lawson Park bt Bedford Borough 81-79. Acle bt Norfolk 117-58. Beccles bt Colchester 78-69. Barking bt Havering 79-71. Herga bt Herts 75-73. Perdiswell bt Swindon Westlecot 85-82. King George Field bt Crystal Palace 85-67. Whiteknights bt Egham 88-74. Dartford Stone Lodge bt Whiteoak 78-62. Eastbourne bt Adur 82-67. Dolphin bt Banister Park 77-72. Yate bt Northavon 73-67. Teignbridge bt Kingsley 83-68.

CRICKET

One-day international

New Zealand v India

CHRISTCHURCH (India won toss): New Zealand won by 70 runs. Series drawn 2-2.

NEW ZEALAND

M J Horne run out	0
B A Young run out	57
C D McMillan c Mongia b Srinath	6
R G Twose c Kumble b Srinath	63
C L Cairns c Ganguly b Kumble	115
*D J Nash c Kumble b Srinath	18
C Z Harris not out	19
†A C Parore run out	5
D L Vettori b Chopra	0
G R Larsen not out	2
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 4, nb 4)	15
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	**300**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-33, 3-101, 4-170, 5-255, 6-287, 7-293, 8-293.

BOWLING: Srinath 10-2-44-3. Prasad 9-0-61-0. Kumble 10-0-78-1. Chopra 5-0-36-1. Ganguly 4-0-20-0. Kanitkar 4-0-24-0. R Singh 5-0-30-0.

INDIA

A Jadeja b Larsen	25
S C Ganguly c Horne b Doull	60
R Dravid c Harris b Vettori	29
*M Azharuddin c McMillan b Harris	63
P Singh c Nash b Larsen	3
J Srinath lbw b Cairns	9
H Kanitkar run out	7
†N R Mongia c Larsen b Harris	9
N Chopra not out	9
A Kumble lbw b Harris	7
B K V Prasad st Parore b Harris	2
Extras (lb 6, w 1)	7
Total (45.3 overs)	**230**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-95, 3-148, 4-158, 5-178, 6-187, 7-202, 8-213, 9-223.

BOWLING: Cairns 6-0-48-1. Doull 7-2-25-1. Nash 8-0-47-0. Larsen 10-0-34-2. Harris 9.3-0-40-4. Vettori 5-0-30-1.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four): **Perth:** Western Australia 245 and 229. Queensland 375 (S G Law 165) and 87-4. Queensland won by 6 wickets.

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: Dartford Wheelers South East London and Kent Championship (Charlton, 14 miles): 1, S Blunt (Ace RT) 1hr 02min 00sec; 2, A Taylor (Sutton Orfroad CC) at 1.55sec; 3, C Thomson (Emy Cycles RT) 3.12. **Norwich ABC** (Attleborough, 10.5 miles): 1, G Hardwicke (Beavale CC) 53.40; 2, G Simcock (Emy Cycles RT) at 53sec; 3, N Ainsworth (Newmarket CC) 1.01. **Severn RC** (Bristol, 10 miles): 1, C Ames (Fred Baker Cycles) 50.20; 2, J Wherlock (Clayton Cars) at 10sec; 3, P Vincent (Global Racing) 1.00. **Abergavenny RC** (Great Betws Farm, 11 miles): 1, M Bradburn (Cardiff JIF) 54.45; 2, I Jenkins (Abergavenny RC) at 3.25; 3, C Davey (Schmoo's) 5.41.

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa 3 Everton 0.
TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Second round: Queen's Park 1 Clachnacuddin 1. **Second-round replay:** Stirling 2 Montrose 1.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton 3 Great Harwood 0.
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Fourth round: Bowers 1 Woodbridge 2 (aet; 1-1 after 90min).
OTHER MATCH: Aberdeen 1 Man Utd 1.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Peterborough 1 Arsenal 0.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn 0 Liverpool 0. **Third division:** Darlington 1 Hartlepool 2.
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS FLOODLIT TROPHY: Third round: Curzon Ashton 1 Newcastle Town 0.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Puma Cup: Third round: Enfield 0 Purfleet 2.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Preston 1 Arsenal 4.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Israel 7 Estonia 0 (in Tel Aviv).
BELGIUM LEAGUE: Genk 3 Ostend 0.

NETBALL

ENGLISH COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: East Essex 26 Derbyshire 69. Birmingham 40 Kent 50. Bedfordshire 39 Essex Metropolitan 54; Surrey 45 Middlesex 56. **Positions** (after four matches): 1, Middlesex 20pts; 2, Derbyshire 17; 3, Essex Met 16; 4, Bedfordshire 16; 5, Surrey 12; 6, Kent 7; 7, Birmingham 4; 8, East Essex 1.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Leg 2d (Galapagos to Hawaii, as at 0500GMT yesterday): 1, Ariel (A Thomson), 102 miles; 2, Chrysolite (T Hedges), 156; 3, Serica (R Deans), 177; 4, Memnerus (B Solins), 197; 5, Antiope (K Harris), 256; 6, Taeping (N Fleming), 263; 7, Thermopylae (M Todd), 311.

SCHOOLS SPORT

HOCKEY: Bryanston 4 Monkton Combe 1. Charterhouse 1 Epsom Coll 2. Stamford 1 Trent Coll 1. Wellington 2 Exeter 4. Woodbridge 2 Culford 2.
RUGBY UNION: Arnold 50 St Anselm's 7. Dartford GS 0 Cooper's Coburn 21; Felsted 5 Framlingham 0. John Cleveland Coll 14 King Henry VIII 0. John Fisher 34 Reigate 8. Lytham 24 Cowley 0. King's, Macclesfield 5 King Edward VII, Lytham 8. Nottingham HS 3 QEGS Wakefield 5. Queen Elizabeth's Hospital 8 Solihull 0.

SWIMMING

HOBART: World Cup short-course event: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, N Rickard (Aus) 22.28sec. **British placing:** 5, S Bonn 22.75. **Women: 200m butterfly:** 1, S O'Neill (Aus) 2min 07.36sec. **British placing:** 5, M Pedder 2.11.48. **50m butterfly:** 1, J Thompson (US) 26.55sec. **British placing:** 5, N Jackson 27.39.

SNOOKER

NEWCASTLE: Nations Cup: Northern Ireland bt England 6-5. Scotland bt Wales 6-3.

SQUASH

CONNECTICUT: Greenwich Open Championship: Finals: Men: P Nicol (Scot) bt P Price (Aus) 15-7, 15-10, 17-14. **Women:** N Grainger (SA) bt R Macree (Eng) 9-4, 5-9, 2-9, 9-0, 9-2.
NOTTINGHAM: Midlands Open Championship: Finals: S Meads (Berkshire) bt T Garner (Sussex) 12-15, 15-5, 15-12, 15-1. **Women:** T Bailey (Lincolnshire) bt C Waddell (Scot) 9-4, 10-8, 9-0.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Men: First round: J Courier (US) bt P Wessels (Holl) 6-3, 6-2, 7-6. G Raoux (Fr) bt A Martin (Sp) 6-3, 7-5, 6-4. F Santoro (Fr) bt D Caldwell (US) 6-2, 6-4, 6-4. T Haas (Ger) bt M Kohlmann (Ger) 7-6, 6-2, 7-5. A Medvedev (Ukr) bt J Bower (SA) 7-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. W Black (Zim) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. V Spadea (US) bt R Delgado (Par) 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0. J Alonso (Sp) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. M Todd (US) bt F Melegeni (Br) 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1. Y El Aynaoui (Mor) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. D Nestor (Can) bt V Voltchkov (Bela) 6-3, 6-7, 6-1, 7-6. F Squillari (Arg) bt L Burgsmuller (Ger) 7-6, 6-4, 6-4. M Damm (Cz) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. A Agassi (US) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-0, 6-3, 6-0. P Korda (Cz) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, 6-7, 6-2. G Rusedski (GB) bt S Draper (Aus) 7-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6. A Pavel (Rom) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt F Jonsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-6, 6-4. C Arnaud (Fr) bt S Campbell (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. P Goldstein (US) bt K Carlsen (Den) 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2. H Dreekmann (Ger) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-2, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3. C Mamiit (US) bt S Koubek (Austria) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. S Huet (Fr) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5. L Roux (Fr) bt A Portas (Sp) 6-3, 6-1, 6-2. S Schalken (Holl) bt T Muster (Austria) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. S Dosedel (Cz) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 6-4, 6-3, 6-3. N Kiefer (Ger) bt C Moyà (Sp) 6-7, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3. G Pozzi (It) bt O Serrano (It) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3. J Novak (Cz) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. S Sargsian (Arm) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. L Hewitt (Aus) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

Women: First round: A Kournikova (Russ) bt J Craybas (US) 7-6, 7-5. K Brandi (US) bt A Cocheteux (Fr) 6-1, 6-1. S Williams (US) bt R Sandu (Rom) 6-2, 6-3. M Hingis (Switz) bt L Osterloh (US) 6-2, 6-1. M Pierce (Fr) bt C Watson (Aus) 6-2, 6-1. J Dokic (Aus) bt E Makarova (Russ) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4. J Lee (Taiwan) bt L Nemeckova (Cz) 6-0, 6-2. B Schett (Austria) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-4, 6-0. S Reeves (US) bt F Perfetti (It) 7-5, 6-3. M J Fernandez (US) bt L Golarsa (It) 6-1, 6-0. E Dementieva (Russ) bt G Pizzichini (It) 6-3, 6-4. M Saeki (Japan) bt S Jeyaseelan (Can) 6-3, 6-0. A Kremer (Lux) bt C Barclay (Aus) 6-3, 6-2. Fang Li (China) bt RK Rittner (Hun) 7-5, 6-4. M Serna (Sp) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6-4, 7-6. A Sánchez-Vicario (Sp) bt M De Swardt (SA) 6-2, 6-2. A Frazier (Yug) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. R Grande (It) bt T Garbin (It) 6-7, 6-0, 9-7. S Appelmans (Bel) bt C Granados (Sp) 6-0, 6-2. A Serra-Zanetti (It) bt M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) 6-1, 6-2. J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt A Molik (Aus) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. S Graf (Ger) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-0, 6-3. A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 6-4, 6-2. E Callens (Bel) bt S-T Wang (Taiwan) 6-2, 6-3. S Testud (Fr) bt T Snyder (US) 6-3, 6-2. E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-2, 6-2. A Glass (Ger) bt S Farina (It) 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. T Panova (Russ) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 7-5, 7-6. V Ruano Pascual (Sp) bt R Bobkova (Cz) 6-0, 6-3. B Schwartz (Austria) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-3, 6-2. A Coetzer (SA) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 6-4, 2-6, 7-5. M Seles (US) bt T Krizan (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-0.

CORBY: Girobank Tour: Finals: Women: L Woodroffe (Surrey) bt M Marfina (Ire) 6-0, 6-3. **Men:** D Sapsford (Surrey) bt N Gould (Avon) 6-2, 6-2.

Answers from page 39

DELUBRUM
(b) A temple, shrine or sanctuary. From the Latin *deluere* to wash off or cleanse, with the instrumental suffix -brum.

DISTUTOR
(b) To deprive of the position of tutor. A Latin but rare word.

ERUKE
(a) A caterpillar. The Anglicised form of the Latin eruca, the larva of a butterfly or such-like insect.

EXPUGN
(a) To capture by fighting. To take by storm. From the Latin ex out + *pugnare* to fight.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Rxe7! Kxe7; 2. Nxf5+ and White emerges a piece ahead.

هكذا من الاصل

TENNIS

Rusedski makes early call on survival instincts

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

GREG RUSEDSKI was entitled to savour his first victory of the year at the Australian Open here yesterday. The Briton shrugged off a back problem, a shortage of confidence, a rowdy chant-leader, an overzealous ballboy and Scott Draper, a man bristling with intent, to put the smile back on his uncharacteristically sombre face.

Rusedski's 7-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 victory was gained the hard way after Draper, world-ranked No 43, played a poor tie-break to drop the opening set. He then threatened to overwhelm Rusedski, who fended off four break points in the third before snaring the set, on his first opportunity, with a winning volley off the frame of his racket. "You buy the racket; you might as well use the whole thing," he quipped.

Draper then squandered the initiative in the fourth-set tie-break. He made three successive errors, the first a double fault when leading 5-4, to hand Rusedski, seeded No 8, a second-round encounter with Paul Goldstein, a qualifier from the United States.

Memories of Rusedski's two first-round defeats this year dissolved in the wake of his triumph. However, he has fresh concerns on his mind after requiring courtside treatment to his back.

"I had a few muscle spasms after practice on Friday," he said. "It turned out fine after a good stretch and some anti-inflammatory tablets." Rusedski coped manfully with a swirling wind, which can affect his service rhythm. "These are the sort of days where upsets can easily happen," he said.

Happen they certainly did. Carlos Moyà, seeded No 4 after a banner year in 1998, succumbed to Nicolas Kiefer, a quarter-finalist here last year. Kiefer obliged 6-7, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3 and now has an excellent opportunity to reach the same stage.

Two other seeds in Kiefer's half of the draw perished yesterday. Albert Costa, seeded No 12, fell in four sets to Martin Damm, while Cedric Pioline, seeded No 13, was spared no embarrassment by Lleyton Hewitt, the emerging talent from Australia.

Hewitt, 17, conjured spectacular winners from all angles of the court to reduce Pioline, of France, to rubble.

From 3-2 down in the opening set, Hewitt dropped just two of the next 18 games to prevail 6-3, 6-1, 6-1. Pioline's reverse meant that, including two withdrawals through injury, six of the 16 men's seeds failed to survive the opening round.

Petr Korda, the champion, was unconvincing in accounting for Galo Blanco, of Spain, in a match memorable only for Blanco refusing to shake Korda's hand at the end. Blanco felt that Korda feigned an ankle injury in the opening set, for which the unseeded Korda called a medical time-out.

"I have never not shaken my opponent's hand," Blanco said, "but when someone lies to you, you cannot trust them." Korda, who cited a High Court action over his failed drugs test as the reason for refusing to answer questions on the subject, said he was unsure whether he would be fit to play tomorrow.

Of eight women's seeds in action yesterday, only Amanda Coetzer dropped a set en route to the second round. The day's highlight was Monica Seles's return to a country where she has not been beaten in six tournaments, including four Australian Opens, the last in 1996. It proved a happy return: Seles, seeded No 6, dismissed Tina Krizan, of Slovakia, for the loss of just one game in 41 minutes.

Steffi Graf, seeded No 10, took one minute fewer to beat Paola Suarez, of Argentina, 6-0, 6-3. Anna Kournikova's service problems continue: she hit 23 double faults on the way to defeating Jill Craybas, of the United States, 7-6, 7-5. Kournikova has now dispensed 116 double faults in her past six matches.

GREG WOOD

Kournikova hits a forehand during her victory over Craybas

TREVOR COLLENS



Rusedski shows his delight after winning an eventful match against Draper in four sets

Agassi skips Davis Cup

ANDRE AGASSI yesterday ruled himself out of the United States team to face Great Britain in the Davis Cup, ensuring that his country will be seriously under-strength for the tie in Birmingham on April 2 (Julian Muscat writes).

Agassi, ranked No 6 in the world, joins Pete Sampras, the world No 1, and Michael Chang in bypassing a tie that brings together the two nations that established the Davis Cup 100 years ago.

"It doesn't fit into my plans with reference to my goals this year," Agassi said after routing Hernan Gumy, of Argentina, in the first round of the Australian Open.

Agassi said that the row he had with the United States Tennis Federation over the venue for his country's semi-final defeat by Italy last year had influenced his decision. "I was very frustrated and drained emotionally through it all and that, I'm sure, played a part," he said.

The United States will choose their two singles players from Todd Martin, Jan-Michael Gambill and Jim Courier. All have confirmed their availability, but Greg Rusedski, the Great Britain No 2, kept his guard up on hearing of Agassi's absence.

"Obviously it's going to be a little better than seeing Agassi and Sampras across the net," Rusedski ventured. "But Martin, the way he's playing, will probably be ranked in the top ten by then and Gambill has beaten Tim [Henman] every time they have played. It is going to be very difficult for us."

Britain meet the United States in the first round of the World Group.

OLYMPICS

Haggman resigns in bribes scandal

BY ROB HUGHES

PIRJO HAGGMAN yesterday became the first Olympian to resign after being implicated in the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Games bribery scandal. A 100 and 400 metres runner at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics and a PE teacher in Finland, Häggman in 1981 became the first woman on the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

A physical education teacher in Finland, Häggman, 47, pleaded guilty yesterday to naivety, not corruption, and said she had not broken the Olympic Oath. Nonetheless, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC, accepted with alacrity, and with thanks, her resignation.

Häggman's husband had been named as a beneficiary of Salt Lake City favour when he was contracted to carry out an environmental study for the bidding committee. This conflict of interests pales in comparison with IOC members being linked to gifts, scholarships and land deals amounting to $600,000.

So far, 13 letters have gone out to members among the 115-strong IOC but, despite reports impugning senior members, Häggman is so far the sole resignation. Others must appear before an IOC panel on Sunday, but may cling to their seats until mid-March.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of Adelaide claimed that three members of the Commonwealth Games Organisation — from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and an unnamed African country — sought five-year scholarships for relatives in exchange for votes towards Adelaide's failed bid for the Commonwealth Games in 1998.

Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, yesterday insisted on BBC Radio 5 Live that the Football Association's financial assistance to nations that have Fifa votes for the 2006 World Cup should be seen in the nature of "overseas development aid . . . that is not the same as people pushing money over the table in brown paper envelopes".

SPORT IN BRIEF

Howley retains captaincy of Wales

■ RUGBY UNION: Robert Howley has been appointed as Wales captain for the Five Nations Championship this season. The Cardiff and British Isles scrum half, who took over as national team captain when Gwyn Jones was forced to retire 13 months ago, will lead Wales for a second successive championship season.

"Rob has done a good job for Wales since he took over and I have no doubt that he is the right player to captain us again," Graham Henry, the Wales coach, said.

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: Bradford Bulls, who yesterday announced that Asics, the sports equipment supplier, will sponsor the club this season, also unveiled their latest signing, David Boyle, a back-row forward from Canberra Raiders. Boyle joins Henry Paul, Michael Withers, Nick Zisti, Scott Naylor and Lee Radford in a new-look squad.

■ ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils' Sekonda Superleague title aspirations suffered a blow yesterday when Mike MacWilliam was given a six-game suspension. The punishment follows a brawl in the the home match against Nottingham Panthers on January 14.

■ GOLF: Prize-money in the Open Championship, which reached £1 million for the first time only six years ago, is being increased to £1.85 million for the return of the event to Carnoustie from July 15 to 18.

■ BOXING: Paul Ingle has turned down world championship contests against Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title-holder, and Antonio Cermeno, the World Boxing Association champion, to defend his European featherweight title against Steve Robinson, the former WBO champion, in Scarborough on March 6.

RUGBY UNION

Why England failed to reach an accord

BY MARK SOUSTER

RUGBY supporters could be forgiven for feeling nonplussed by the Byzantine events of the past 24 hours. One minute England are out of the Five Nations Championship, the next they are back in, having made a rapid volte-face. The root cause of the dispute, on the surface at least, is the revenue from multimillion-pound television deals.

In 1996, England broke with tradition and signed a five-year contract with BSkyB worth £87.5 million, £22.5 million of which was earmarked for club rugby, and the remaining £65 million for Five Nations matches at Twickenham and autumn fixtures against southern hemisphere countries, plus other club games, including the Varsity match.

The fact that England chose to act unilaterally led to their temporary expulsion from the championship at that time. They were readmitted only after they had signed the peace accord, which set out two fundamental principles — that the countries would act collectively and revenue would be distributed equally. This was not possible in the short term because of the BSkyB deal, but holds true after 2002 when the contract expires.

At the time, England agreed to have a valuation put on the Five Nations element of the £65 million; their alleged failure to live up to that pledge led directly to their expulsion on Monday. From 1996 to mid-1998 the parties attempted to reach agreement between themselves; when it subsequently proved impossible to agree, an independent valuer, an accountant named Arthur Harverd, was appointed. At that point the Rugby Football Union refused to acknowledge the legality of the accord per se. Harverd will now consider preliminary submissions from all sides on February 5.

Ivan Francescato, the former Italy centre, has died after a suspected heart attack at his home in Treviso. Francescato, 31, won 38 caps between 1990 and 1997 and was central to the emergence of rugby in his country. He was the youngest of four brothers, all Italy international players.

Three years ago it was estimated that the Five Nations portion was worth more about £34.5 million of the £65 million — equal to a notional £2.3 million each for Ireland, Wales and Scotland over five years. That sum would be put in to a common pool, together with £32 million from the Celtic nations — the bulk of the proceeds from their own deal negotiated with the BBC. With further ancillary income the total in the pool would amount to £70 million. Whether Harverd agrees with that assessment remains to be seen.

The accord provides a formula for the distribution of that money. Ninety per cent would be divided between the four participants — thus, on the above figures, each would receive £3.5 million annually for five years. Another five per cent would be prize-money for the Five Nations, and the remaining five per cent apportioned according to the number of clubs in each union.

Historically, France, being in a different legal jurisdiction, negotiated their own television deal, a provision allowed for in the accord as long as the RFU had the rights to negotiate individually. The RFU believed France should pool its revenue, a condition England attached to acceptance of the accord this weekend.

Television revenue underpins union finances. The Scots have an overdraft of £17 million, England's debt is £34 million and Wales will need a loan of more than £50 million for the Millennium Stadium. Thus, jeopardising that revenue would spell financial suicide.

☐ Richmond have rearranged their Allied Dunbar Premiership first division fixture against Leicester for next Tuesday, at the Madejski Stadium in Reading. The match should have taken place last night, but was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch. The Challenge Trophy game last night involving Pontypridd and Edinburgh Reivers has been postponed to tonight.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup
Third-round replay
Notts County v Sheffield Utd (7.45)

Scottish League
Second division
Livingston v East Fife

Third division
Dumbarton v Berwick

Tennent's Scottish Cup
Second-round replay
Clachnacuddin v Queen's Park

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third round: Radcliffe v Northwich (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: League Cup: First round, second leg: Baldock v Raunds T. Second round: Racing Club Warwick v Sutton Coldfield Town

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second-round replay: Bishop Auckland v Farsley Celtic

RYMAN LEAGUE: Second division: Harlow v Hemel Hempstead. Third division: Southall v Croydon Athletic.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third-round replay: Hartlepool v Barnet; Nottingham Forest v West Bromwich.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth v Wycombe (at Wycombe, 2.0); Brentford v Millwall (1.0); Charlton v Northampton (7.0); Chelsea v Oxford (7.0); Ipswich v Swindon (7.0); Norwich v Reading. Southampton v Luton; Tottenham v Cambridge

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham v Sunderland (at Hednesford Town, 7.15); Leicester v Preston (7.0). First division: Middlesbrough v Barnsley (at Billingham Synthonia, 7.0); Port Vale v Wolverhampton (7.0); West Bromwich v Burnley (at Halesowen, 7.0). Second division: Huddersfield v Rotherham (7.0); Lincoln v Shrewsbury (at Lincoln Utd, 2.0); Newcastle v Bradford (at Newcastle Rugby Club, 2.0); York v Scarborough (7.0). Third division: Bury v Rochdale (2.0); Hull v Chesterfield (2.0); Scunthorpe v Halifax (7.0); Wigan v Chester (2.0).

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Town v Bedlington Terriers; Jarrow Roofing v West Auckland.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Cray v Faversham.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham v Keynsham.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Athletic v Milton Keynes.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham v Eastbourne.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Ramsbottom v Mossley

RUGBY UNION

Welsh Challenge Trophy
Pool A
Aberavon v Natal Wildebeest (7.0)
Caerphilly v Georgia (7.15)
Pontypridd v Edinburgh Reivers (7.15).

Pool B
Bridgend v Gauteng Falcons (7.15)
Newport v Blue Bulls (7.0)

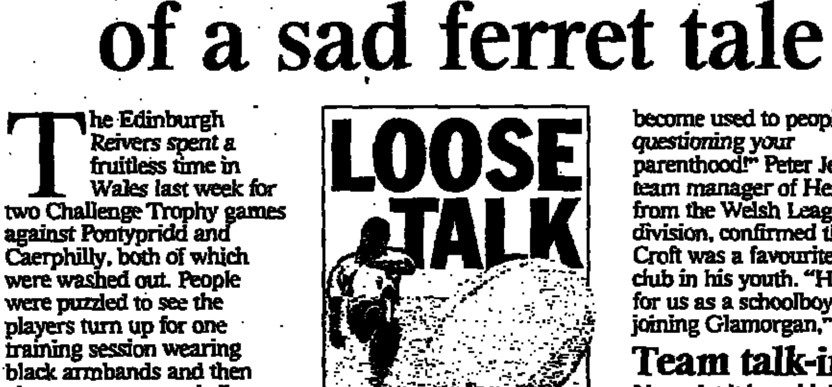
CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University v RAF (7.15)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester Giants v Worthing Bears (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v London Towers (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Bracknell Bees (7.30).

Reivers salute the end of a sad ferret tale



The Edinburgh Reivers spent a fruitless time in Wales last week for two Challenge Trophy games against Pontypridd and Caerphilly, both of which were washed out. People were puzzled to see the players turn up for one training session wearing black armbands and then observe a ten-second silence . . . in memory of Alan Tait's pet white ferret! Rex, for it is he, is missing in action, presumed dead. Tait was inconsolable. Rex is the best ferret he has had and has killed thousands of rabbits in his time. According to Craig Chalmers, it was the most exciting thing that happened all week. Tait's feelings on the countryside are well-known. He boycotted Tony Blair's reception at No 10 for the 1997 Lions in protest at the Government's policy on hunting.

Tasty tulips

Spotted in London's Dover Street Wine Bar in the small hours last week, after the Rugby Writers' dinner, were Gareth Rees and Sean Lineen, indulging in a tulip-eating contest. The Canadian and the Kiwi-Scot each chomped their way through three — stems included — before declaring an honourable draw. Lineen said: "I wasn't able to go to the toilet for three days!"

Replay it again

The Teleref experiment in South Africa proved so successful that Sanzar — the combined South Africa, New Zealand and Australia rugby authority — is to approach the International Board for permission to extend the project during the Super 12 and other domestic competitions. The pilot scheme covered ten under-21 games and took less than a minute to view replays from three different angles and inform the referee.

Touchy judge

Dog bites man? A touch judge was sent off during the Chichester versus Maidstone London III South East league match just before Christmas . . . for punching a player! No names have been revealed, but one witness said the touch judge took exception to a tackle by a Maidstone player, stormed on the pitch and berated the offender, waving his flag in his face. The player brushed the flag away, only for the official to retaliate with a right hook. The referee dismissed him and called for a replacement. So far no disciplinary action has been taken.

Croft cracker

You can take the man out of Hendy, but you cannot take Hendy out of the man. The BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year Awards last week were enlivened by an interview with Robert Croft, the Glamorgan spin bowler, live from Brisbane, where England had just beaten Sri Lanka. Questioned on the hostile nature of Aussie cricket crowds, Croft said: "When you've been to as many Hendy-Pontarddulais derbies as I have, you become used to people questioning your parenthood!" Peter Jenkins, team manager of Hendy, from the Welsh League fifth division, confirmed that Croft was a favourite at the club in his youth. "He played for us as a schoolboy before joining Glamorgan," he said.



Croft: Hendy favourite

Team talk-in

Never let it be said that top clubs do not communicate with their members — unless it is London Scottish. Leicester have issued a five-point explanation over the difficulties of fielding their strongest XV on a regular basis (injuries, international requirements etc). The club has also offered a commitment that admission prices for "friendly or minor competition games" in future will reflect the strength of the playing XV and the significance the club attaches to specific competitions. The first of a series of meetings will be held next Thursday, when members will have the chance to air their views.

Rugby for Rugby

Rugby's coming home . . . in World Cup year, Rugby School, the birthplace of the game, is hosting a series of youth development courses during the Easter and summer holidays. They are organised by the Academy of Rugby, which has invited 12,000 schoolboys from all over the country. It is the first time the school, where William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran, has committed itself to a long-term rugby programme.

☐ *Congratulations to those sopranos from Wasps who raised more than £1,700 for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children at two carol singing sessions before Christmas. At 9am yesterday, Lawrence Dallaglio, Mark Weedon, Shane Roiser and Fraser Waters were on parade at the hospital to present the cheque, meet staff and children and tour the wards. And all that before training!*

MARK SOUSTER

SNOOKER

Small wonder lifts Scotland

BY PHIL YATES

CHRIS SMALL, the least experienced member of snooker's reassembled "dream team", played a vital role as Scotland continued their relentless progress towards a place in the Nations Cup final by beating Wales 8-3 in Newcastle yesterday.

The pedigree of John Higgins, Stephen Hendry and Alan McManus is well-known but, with two semi-final appearances in world-ranking events the highlight of his eight-year professional career, Small's ability to cope with the unique demands of team play was open to question.

Small, however, won both of his singles frames during Scotland's 8-3 victory over England on Saturday and was equally impressive against the Welsh, who had high hopes of an upset after overcoming Ireland 8-3 in their opening match.

"It has been a great start to the tournament for me as an individual and obviously for the lads as a whole," Small said. "I feel quite relaxed, having three guys like I've got alongside me, but it's certainly different from just thinking about yourself."

Small partnered Hendry to beat the pairing of Darren Morgan and Dominic Dale, made a 66 break in defeating Dale and calmly stroked in a tricky black to a middle pocket against Matthew Stevens.

McManus, who initiated the rout with a 100 break against Mark Williams in the first frame, also won his two singles and Hendry prevailed in two of three, but all agreed that Small was the outstanding performer.

Scotland, whose last international involvement resulted in an effortless triumph at the 1996 World Cup, must now beat either Northern Ireland on Friday or Ireland on Saturday to guarantee their participation in the final.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	80	100	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	2	17/1
Austria								
Kitzbühel	20	60	Good	Hard	Varied	Fine	1	14/1
Soll	20	70	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-4	14/1
St Anton	30	300	Fair	Open	Varied	Sun	0	14/1
Canada								
Lake Louise	100	140	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-1	18/1
France								
Alpe d'Huez	70	160	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	3	18/1
Argentière	50	145	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-1	14/1
Flaine	80	220	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	14/1
La Clusaz	65	110	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	2	14/1
La Tania	68	103	Good	Hard	Varied	Sun	3	14/1
Les Arcs	64	180	Fair	Worn	Crusty	Fine	4	14/1
Megève	55	140	Fair	Open	Varied	Sun	5	14/1
Méribel	50	180	Fair	Icy	Crusty	Sun	3	14/1
Tignes	66	170	Good	Hard	Varied	Sun	-3	14/1
Val Thorens	70	130	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-3	14/1
Val d'Isere	65	150	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	1	14/1
Italy								
Cervinia	45	160	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	0	14/1
Cortina	45	80	Good	Worn	Powder	Sun	2	14/1
M di Campiglio	60	120	Good	Open	Crusty	Sun	6	13/1
Norway								
Geilo	70	70	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-3	17/1
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	20	115	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	6	14/1
Davos	45	130	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-10	14/1
Grindelwald	35	130	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	2	14/1
Klosters	35	135	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-1	14/1
St Moritz	40	80	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	13/1
Verbier	20	180	Hard	Icy	Varied	Sun	-3	14/1
Villars	40	120	Fair	Open	Varied	Fair	-3	14/1
Zermatt	42	130	Hard	Hard	Crusty	Fine	-2	17/1
United States								
Aspen	75	95	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	19/1

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes, U = upper slopes

A little rationality, s'il vous plait





Midweek View

A wonderful parodist named David McGillivray once wrote a French farce called *Chase Me Down Farndale Avenue, S'Il Vous Plait.* The set comprised nothing but doors. The cast went in and out of them, and then out and in of them, with — as McGillivray himself gravely might have put it — hilarious consequences.

It was belly-achingly funny and could not be taken seriously for a second, even as a parody, because it parodied parodies at the same time as it parodied farce. All you could do was sit back and enjoy it.

Rugby union has become rather like that. Lie back and think of Farndale Avenue. *Jouez Au Rugby S'Il Vous Plait* has become a parody of a farce. It has gone beyond weeping, beyond anger and ascended to the rarefied McGillivrayesque heights of pure laughter.

England is the character that sees most of the action and action, of course, consists of going in and out of doors. Yesterday morning, I was writing about England's expulsion from the Five Nations Championship. Now, as the evening begins and my earlier piece has been retired to the wicker file in the corner, I am writing about England's return to the Five Nations Championship.

Which will soon be, of course, the Six Nations Championship, because Italy are supposed to join next year. Or perhaps it will be the Five Nations Championship, if England are thrown out again. Or — well, perm anything you like, no bit of nonsense is too much for the subject.

There was an Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman, and they sat down to talk about rugby ... Push it as far as you dare, and then dare a little more: those are McGillivray Rules and rugby union adheres to them.

It is not the first time that England have been thrown out and come straight back in again. Or perhaps they were only threatened with exit through the nearest door. Or perhaps the other four nations all walked out through their own separate doors, there being, as I say, plenty of doors on the set. I forget. I really can't be expected to keep up with every twist and turn of the plot, especially when my belly aches so much from laughing.

So what else is happening in rugby union? Have you heard the one about the club that is buying up the other club in a cunning plan to ensure promotion? Rugby union made such an appalling mess of amateurism and it has made a still worse mess of professionalism. Amateurism was a farce, professionalism in rugby union is a parody of a farce.

But then you look back to those rather splendid internationals of the autumn — resurgent Wales, England beating the All Blacks. And you begin to get a little irritated as well. Sport's incessant squabbles about money are not only wearisome, they are also compromising our pleasures.

I suspect most of the people who take pleasure in sport find themselves in the same philosophical position. I don't care what you do or how you divvy up the loot or who's to blame or who's the good guy or who's the bad: just get on to the pitch and bloody well play.

The game's the thing. And not playing the game is — well, not playing the game. And any kind of action that loses us sporting action will also lose our sympathy. Recently, basketball ended its dispute: 190 days of deadlock about how best to dispose of US$2 billion. One or other of the two sides — players or owners — must have felt badly done by.

My heart has been steadily not bleeding for them. Then we had the recent episode of the West Indies cricket team, sulking in their tents at Heathrow while matches were supposed to be going on in South Africa.

The dispute, and the subsequent Test series, when it was eventually played — just completed, with South Africa winning 5-0 — was a disaster. It is a blow from which West Indies cricket, and therefore international cricket, will take a good long while to recover.

A sporting dispute is not like a dispute between unions and management. A sporting dispute is something that involves and invades everyone who cares for sport. It feels — perhaps irrationally — like a personal attack. It does, after all, affect ourselves and our pleasures.

People have said that agents, or sponsors, or television, will kill sport. Or journalists. But it is sport that is killing sport: sportsmen are killing sport, and so — and especially — are sporting administrators.

LIONEL CIRONNEAU

McRae and Nicky Grist, his co-driver, weave their Ford Focus into a prominent position yesterday during the journey from Gap to Monte Carlo

McRae confounds the critics

FROM JEREMY HART IN MONTE CARLO

THE Hungarian Grand Prix last summer. In the baking paddock, Martin Whitaker, Ford's European head of motor sport, was hot property. News had just broken that Colin McRae was moving to the Ford rally team for a figure reported to be £6 million.

"Suddenly, every grand-prix driver contemplating a move wanted to drive for Ford," Whitaker said, with a grin. "They figured that if we were really paying a rally driver the sort of figures bandied about, then we had money to burn. That's not true. We wanted the best driver possible and we paid the market price. We think it will prove a good investment."

Five months on, Whitaker is grinning like the proverbial Cheshire cat this morning. His £6 million man is just one place off a podium finish at the Monte Carlo Rally — his first outing for Ford — in a car that most insiders had predicted would not score a point until the spring.

"Colin has driven perfectly," Whitaker said. "When you make a new rally car, you dare not hope for more than a finish to start with, but the fact that the car has been on the pace and has come close to setting fastest-stage times is outstanding."

McRae and the Martini Ford Focus provide potentially the most potent cocktail in the rallying world. With the Ford name likely to be superseded in Formula One by Jaguar, rallying will become Ford's leading publicity machine in Europe.

Spending millions on man and machine is not an extravagance, but an investment. A rally team needs an injection of more than £15 million annually to compete at the highest level.

Enticed by the millions and consequent trappings, such as a Jaguar for his wife, Alison, McRae only signed for Ford once he had seen the design of the radical Focus, with its secret transmission system.

"The professionalism and the dedication of the Ford boys was very tempting," McRae said. "Also, it was a rare opportunity to join a team and have input in a brand new car."

McRae is one of rallying's finest test drivers, with a seat-of-the-pants sense for a car's handling. Sadly, his technical nous did not extend to spotting the design of the water pump on the Ford's 300-horsepower engine. If he had, the Scot might not have been so quick to sign on the dotted line.

On Sunday, the water pump was found to be illegal, but he was allowed to start at Monte Carlo under appeal.

However, if the FIA, the sport's world governing body, determines once and for all that the water pump is illegal in a meeting next month before the Swedish Rally, McRae could be temporarily on the dole. The Ford team will be out of rallying for at least two events while they hurriedly redesign the pump.

"Whether the Focus is as competitive with another water pump we will have to see," a rival team's rally engineer said. "I would doubt it."

McRae always knew that 1999 was going to be a year to test his patience. Whether the Scot has the strength of character to risk a second year out of the championship frame, though, is doubtful.

"If, at the end of this year, the car is a disaster, I could bow out," McRae said. "But there is no way I want that to happen ... in fact, it won't happen. It's not a possibility. I shall make sure of that."

McRae would have finished the leg from Gap to Monte Carlo in second place yesterday had he not gambled on using slick tyres for the precipitous Sisteron stage. Snow at the summit negated the benefit that he enjoyed on the run up and down the mountain.

"We lost around two minutes sliding about on the snow with the slick tyres, but finished the stage only 36 seconds behind the fastest time, so that proves how fast the car was on the dry, asphalt sections," McRae said.

On the next stage, Gilles Paizzi, the overnight leader, lost first place when he spun his privately entered Subaru. Inheriting the lead was Tommi Makinen, the world champion, in a Mitsubishi. The Finn has a minute cushion with only the final four stages today remaining.

POSITIONS

MONTE CARLO RALLY (after ten special stages): 1, T Makinen and R Mannisenmaki (Fin/Mitsubishi Lancer) 3hr 48min 56.5sec; 2, G and H Panizzi (Fr/Subaru Impreza) 3:50.42.1; 3, J Kankkunen and J Repo (Fin/Subaru Impreza) 3:51 02.3; 4, C McRae and N Grist (GB/Ford Focus) 3:51.44.2; 5, F Delecour and D Savignoni (Fr/Ford Escort) 4 09.9; 6, B Thiry and S Prevot (Bel/Subaru Impreza) 4:36.9; 7, D Auriol and D Giraudet (Fr/Toyota Corolla) 4:53.7; 8, H Rovanpera and R Pietilainen (Fin/Seat Cordoba) 7:00.7; 9, P Liatti/C Cassina (It/SEAT) 7:03 4; 10, R Burns/R Reid (GB/Subaru Impreza) 9:35.4.

CRICKET

Emburey says pitch it up

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN HARARE

ENGLAND A will face their sternest examination so far, and possibly the toughest of their six-week tour of Zimbabwe, when they meet Mashonaland in a four-day match starting here today.

The very mention of Mashonaland brings back memories of the senior England side's embarrassing defeat by the province two winters ago.

The Mashonaland top six of Alistair Campbell, captain of the national team, the Flower brothers, Grant and Andy, Murray Goodwin, Craig Wishart and Gavin Rennie could fill the same positions in the Zimbabwe Test side and with Paul Strang and Everton Matambanadzo included among the bowlers, there is no doubting the quality of the opposition.

It is in the bowling that England A have had most of their headaches. Steve Harmison, the Durham strike bowler, who is certain to play today, and Paul Hutchison have recovered from stiff backs and Darren Thomas's thigh strain has almost healed, but doubts remain over Melvyn Betts, who has a damaged groin.

With all 15 players in the squad guaranteed an outing in one of the two first-class matches before the unofficial Tests begin, it is unlikely that Betts will be risked here.

In the two limited-overs warm-up matches so far, much of the seam bowling has been inconsistent and John Emburey, the tour coach, offered no excuses for the form of some of his bowlers. "The pitches are very slow and you have to bowl to a full length. The players have got to adapt to that," he said.

"They are professional cricketers and this is a learning process for them. They are young and must be aware that if you want to become an international bowler, you have to learn to bowl in all conditions."

The seamers have suffered most because frequent rain has turned much of the soil on the pitches encountered so far to the texture of glue. The party was grateful, therefore, of dry conditions for a full practice yesterday.

ENGLAND A (from): M P Vaughan, D L Maddy, M B Loye, A Flintoff, M G N Windows, R W T Key, V S Solanki, C W Read, G P Swann, S D Thomas, J D Lewry, A M Betts, D A Cosker, S J Harmison, P M Hutchison

MASHONALAND (from): A D R Campbell, A Flower, G W Flower, M W Goodwin, H Hira, T N Madondo, E Matambanadzo, B Pswarayi, G J Rennie, P A Strang, M Vermeulen, C B Wishart.

Chris Cairns hit the fifth-fastest one-day century to guide New Zealand to a 70-run win over India in Christchurch yesterday. Cairns, in his hundredth limited-overs match, totalled 115, his century coming in 75 balls, including five fours and six sixes.

Harris proves as good as her word

MARGARET HARRIS, of Netley Abbey, Southampton, is the winner of *The Times* Jumbo sports crossword and will receive a magnum of champagne worth £40. Miss Harris's entry was *the first drawn from all* those correct ones received by the closing date last week.

Simon Smith, of Middlesbrough, wins a copy of *The Davis Cup: Celebrating 100 Years Of International Tennis*, by Richard Evans (Ebury Press, £14.99; mail order 01206 255800) and signed by John McEnroe, Tim Henman and Henri Leconte. Margaret Potter, of Dunfermline, Scotland, wins a copy signed by Boris Becker.

Five further runners-up — Trevor Hewstead, of Bedford; John Green, of Johnston, near Carmarthen, Wales; C. McMahon, of London E1; Adrian Brodkin, of London N2; and Mrs E. Drake, of Harleston, Norfolk — will receive copies of *The Spirit of Football (Kensington West Productions, £14.99).*

SOLUTION: Across: 1 Gordon Banks; 7 Australians; 12 Bowls; 13 Worn; 15 Neill; 16 Panel; 17 Pair; 19 India; 20 Run out; 21 Toys; 23 Brew; 25 Umpire; 28 Simpson; 29 Dashing; 32 Parks; 33 Extra; 34 College; 37 Lessons; 39 Chicane; 41 Twists; 42 Spot; 44 Dive; 48 Ashton; 49 Maestro; 50 Bat; 51 New; 53 Neville; 55 Place; 56 Baize; 57 Try line; 58 Dan; 60 PGA; 61 A cup tie; 62 Trojan; 64 Tyre; 66 Anna; 67 Mascot; 70 Dithers; 71 Hits low; 73 Shooter; 75 Title; 77 Ocean; 79 Control; 81 Bouncer; 84 Rumble; 85 Toss; 87 Tans; 89 Hunter; 91 North; 92 Vest; 93 Gimme; 95 Rossi; 97 Draw; 98 Outer; 99 Runs the game; 100 Alan Shearer. **Down:** 1 Gower; 2 Ninety; 3 Ali; 4 Kelly; 5 Johnson; 6 Claimed; 8 Upper; 9 Ton; 10 All out; 11 Serve; 14 Runner; 18 A fight; 21 Trial; 22 Suspect; 23 Bustled; 24 Winds; 26 Spurt; 27 Ascot; 30 Tests; 31 Tap-in; 35 Tight; 36 Baton; 38 Mike Tyson; 40 Athletics; 43 Penalty; 45 Venison; 47 Ropes; 48 Sneak; 49 Mat; 50 Bed; 52 WBA; 54 Eye; 59 Ninth; 60 Paced; 62 Tully; 63 Ashes; 65 Edwards; 66 Assault; 68 Apron; 69 Twins; 72 Short; 74 Owens; 76 Thumbs; 78 Easter; 80 Leboeuf; 81 Battled; 82 Length; 83 Sheikh; 84 Rover; 86 Steam; 88 April; 90 Rower; 94 Mug; 96 Sin.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Death in the countryside

Midsomer Murders
ITV, 8.00pm

Welcome back to John Nettles's DCI Barnaby, who is unusual among television detectives in having a happy home life. As we learn tonight, he has even managed to stay married to the same woman for 25 years, though trust a murder case to do its best to wreck the celebrations. It is a particularly gruesome one, startlingly so for the pretty rural village which forms the invariable backdrop to a Barnaby story. The victim is a property developer whose plan for a retirement home and golf course was hugely unpopular. But if it would take a minibus to accommodate all the suspects, why should anybody have bothered to kill a man who was already dying of a brain tumour? The investigation is patient and low-key, perhaps a little too slow at times, but there is good character work, notably by Richard Briers as a hen-pecked vicar.

Mersey Blues
BBC2, 9.00pm

The second dispatch from inside the Merseyside Police is again a story of frustrated officers doing their best with limited resources. The focus this time is on Operation Vixen, an initiative to deal with gang warfare on the streets of Liverpool. To set the scene we are treated to video footage of a man letting loose with a .45 semi-automatic on bouncers who have just thrown him out of a club. Nightclubs are often used to sell drugs and doormen are paid to discourage rival dealers. Armed police patrol the city in search of key targets identified by the Vixen team. One man is arrested but found not guilty. Another has to be released without charge. While DI Garry Watson, head of Vixen, hopes desperately for a break, his cost-conscious superiors are wondering whether Vixen should continue.

Blood on the Carpet: Ice-Cream Wars
BBC2, 9.50pm

Another entertaining trawl through the murkier reaches of business recalls a David and Goliath battle in, of all things, ice-cream. Goliath is Häagen-Dazs, the misleadingly Danish name for a product as American as apple pie, which by the 1980s had more than 70 per cent of the luxury ice-cream market. Enter David in the form Ben and Jerry's, a rival ice-cream launched by two hippies and distinguished by its weird flavours and chunky texture. Despite dominating the market, Häagen-Dazs tried to stifle its fledgeling rival by cutting off its main distribution source. Ben and Jerry's went to court and won. The twist is that Ben and Jerry's is in turn being accused of trying to shut out a smaller competitor, a company ironically started by a former Häagen-Dazs president.



Husband and wife traders Maggie and Roger Burton in *Fish Tales* (BBC1, 10.15pm)

Inside Story: Fish Tales
BBC1, 10.15pm

Neil Grant is a film-maker with a talent for spotting characters. He was producer of *Hotel*, a series rich in them, and now he turns his camera on Billingsgate fish market. If you thought that fast-talking, sharp-thinking Cockneys died with the music-hall, Billingsgate is full of them. Defying the edict that traders must wear white, Roger Barton is all mouth and funny with it. "You've got to be better than Gordon Banks", he says. "Nothing must ever get past you." Not much does. One of his customers, who matches him for savvy, is Tony Allen. At 34 Allen is a multimillionaire who made his pile from the restaurant trade but still gets up early to buy his fish. "Dodger" Lewis, meanwhile, combines selling fish with trying to be discovered as a rock singer — though he must be well into his fifties.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Board Game
Radio 4, 1.30pm

Lunchtime quizzes and panel games have provided more grief for Radio 4 Controller James Boyle than a lunch of dodgy fish and too much white wine and his key difficulty is that for every person who likes one of the new programmes there is another who does not. I think *The Board Game* is one of the better ones because it does provide an insight into how business people think (or not). The presenter is Nigel Cassidy, a past master of the panel format, and the two regular panellists return: Peter Day and Alastair Ross Goobey. Guest panellists often give the programme an extra spark and in this series they will include the television executive Greg Dyke and Lord Haskins, the plain-speaking (and Blair-friendly) chairman of Northern Foods.

Frontiers
Radio 4, 9.00pm

There is no area of British radio that does proper justice to science, so the return of this programme is to be welcomed. It is one of the few oases of science in a determinedly science-unfriendly radio landscape. The particular brief of *Frontiers* is research, meaning that the programme consistently gets to the cutting edge of scientific developments. Tonight Peter Evans looks at blindsight, a curious phenomenon which allows people who are technically blind to react in the correct way to objects placed in front of them. Sufferers will often claim that they are only guessing but blindsight is too widespread for that to be so. This unconscious sensory perception may house clues to the way the brain works.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** *Mark Radcliffe* **4.00** *Chris Moyles* **5.45** *Newsbeat* **6.00** Clive Warren **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00am** Blue Jam **1.00** Gilles Peterson **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** The *Andy Peebles Soul Show (9/13)* **10.00** *Route 66* Revisited with Nick Barraclough (6/7) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive. Peter Allen and Jane Garvey present the day's news and sports action **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Five Nations Rugby Night. A look ahead to the weekend's action. Plus, the National Lottery draw **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Peter and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks and Nick Ferrari **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** Justice with Jacobs **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley's Drivetime **5.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** *My Century* **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.35** One Planet **9.00** World News **9.05** Britain Now **9.20** World Ranking **9.30** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Wild Tales **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** One Planet **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Jazzmatazz **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: X-Press **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** *Sports International* **7.00** *World News* **7.05** One Planet **7.30** Wild Tales **7.45** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: X-Press **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** One Planet **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Live **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Everywoman **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour, and favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' favourite pieces of classical music **2.00** Concerto. Glazunov (Piano Concerto No 1 in F minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics **6.30** Newsnight. *Headlines, arts news and guests introduced by John Brunning* **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven: John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Brahms (2 Gesange. Mahler (Das Lied von der Erde); Brahms (Alto Rhapsody) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music and conversation through thr early hours with Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Glazunov (Piano Concerto No 1 in F minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths: The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Beethoven (Sonata in F minor, Op 2 No 1); Faure (Cantique de Jean Racine); Borodin (Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. C.P.E. Bach (Symphony in A, Wq182 No 4); Mozart (Der Vogelfanger bin ich ja, The Magic Flute)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Marilyn Horne
11.00 Sound Stories: Fairy Tales — Blue Beard
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Purcell
1.00 ***The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert*** *Live* from the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire. Paul Lewis, piano. Includes Busoni (Elegies: No 7, Berceuse elegiaque; No 6, Erscheinung); Liszt (Unstern-sinistre, Disastro; Sposalizio, Annees de Pelerinage; La Lugubre Gondola, 1882 version)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras Ulster Orchestra under Jacek Kaspszyk and Alexander Anisimov
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Wells Cathedral
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty's guests tonight include the American conductor Michael Tilson Thomas
7.30 ***Performance on 3*** *BBC National Orchestra of* Wales under Grant Llewellyn, Della Jones, mezzo. Hoddinott (Welsh Dances: Suite No 3); Metcalf (Museum of the Air, first performance); Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Eroica)
9.10 Postscript: Mini Monet (3/5)
9.25 Music for Organ David Sanger plays a selection of French music at Exeter College, Oxford (r)
10.00 Ensemble A recital by the young German violinist Isabelle Faust given last December in the Wigmore Hall, London. Mendelssohn (Violin Sonata in F, Adagio). Prokofiev (Violin Sonata No 1, Op 80)
10.45 Night Waves Patrick Wright and guests discuss *Monet in the 20th Century*, the Royal Academy's new exhibition
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents a profile of the guitarist John Pizzarelli
12.00am Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. **1.00** Olivier Latry, organ. Bach (Prelude, Trio and Fugue in B, BWV545b); Franck (Prelude, Fugue and Variation in B minor, Op 18 No 3); Alain (Litanies); Durufle (Prelude and Fugue on the Name Alain, Op 7); Latry (Improvisation on B A C H); **2.05** Grieg (Holberg Suite) **3.00** Schools: Time and Tune **3.20** Together **3.40** Dance Workshop **4.00** The Song Tree **4.20** Scottish Resources 10-12 **4.40** Talking Points **5.00** Schubert (Marche Militaire) **5.45** Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents rural issues
6.00 Today With John Humphrys and James Naughtie. Including Thought for the Day, with Anne Atkins
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round up of political news
9.00 Midweek with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Iris Part three
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Murder, Magic and Medicine The natural origins of modern drugs and medicine (2/6)
11.30 Choice Grenfell Maureen Lipman reinterprets Joyce Grenfell's monologues and songs (4/4)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Presented by Trixie Rawlinson and Mark Whittaker
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Board Game New series. The panellists Peter Day, Howard Hogson, Alastair Ross Goobey and Janette Rutterford take part in the business quiz, chaired by Nigel Cassidy. See Choice
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 ***Afternoon Play: Goodbye Moses*** Jannie Buckman's black comedy about a Trinidadian ghost on a quest to find his killers. With Andrew Rajan, Dominic Carter and Angela Wynter
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Nigel Colborn, Pippa Greenwood and Roy Lancaster answer questions from gardeners at Queen's College, Cambridge (r)
3.30 The Vale Tony Robinson witnesses the struggle to rescue a fox led by staff of Evesham's wildlife sanctuary (2/6) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates the history of Britain, written by Winston Churchill (r)
4.00 All in the Mind New series. Professor Anthony Clare explores the limits of the human mind
4.30 Thinking Allowed Laurie Taylor and guests discuss society and the forces shaping it
5.00 PM with Eddie Mair and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone Mike Coleman's comedy, starring Roy Hudd and June Whitfield as a showbiz couple who find fame again. With Pat Coombs and Julian Eardley (r)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the arts programme, reviewing a new film dramatisation of Jacqueline du Pré's life
7.45 Lady Susan by Jane Austen. Broadcast earlier within *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Them and Us More topical debate
8.45 Gerry's Bar Gerry Anderson introduces reflections on Irish life (r)
9.00 Frontiers New series. Peter Evans investigates curious phenomena, starting with blindsight, in which unsighted people react accurately to what is happening before their eyes. See Choice (1/6)
9.30 Midweek (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana by Emile Zola (13/15)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery The award-winning comedian Sean Lock presents his own brand of downbeat mirth
11.15 For One Horrible Moment by Peter Bradshaw. The likely lad receives a dubious initiation at the wheel of a Ford Anglia (3/5)
11.30 (FM) The Cheese Shop Presents: The Butter Factor Comedy sketches, with Gerard Foster, Dave Lamb, Gordon Southern, Tim Verrinder, Ben Ward and Richard Webb (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort Kate Harper reads part eight of Alison Lurie's tale
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Enigmatic variations on using a pixie hood

When you hear that the odds against deciphering Germany's Enigma code during the Second World War were many times greater than the odds against winning the National Lottery, it conjures up an image of Bletchley Park, the country house near Milton Keynes, as a vast bingo hall. Here you feel punters — a curious army of academics, crossword fanatics, chess players, schoolboys and undergraduates — competed feverishly to yell "Housey, housey!" as soon as they had cracked the latest German transmission.

Obviously it wasn't quite that weird. It was weirder. Sarah Baring, who worked there, recalled in *Station X* (Channel 4), that: "There was one cryptographer with red hair and a red beard and he studied Japanese in the evenings as a relief from his cryptography. But in the winter he wore a blue pixie hood on his beard. A pixie hood's the thing you put on babies' heads. And I always thought that was very strange. I never knew quite why he did it."

Owen Watkins, a WAAF at Bletchley, remembered Josh Cooper well. "He would walk round the lake every summer evening with a coffee cup. And when he'd finished his coffee he'd look in a demented way at the coffee cup as though wondering what to do with it and throw it straight over his shoulder into the lake. Every evening." These geniuses, luckily, were the people on whom our lives depended. "At least half of the people there, I would have thought — outside Bletchley — absolutely mad," says Watkins, frankly.

Their achievement is still breathtaking. According to Tony Sale, of the Bletchley Park Trust, "If I sent just one message on an Enigma machine today, it would still take a Super Kray computer — the fastest in the world — a year to go through searching for that one message without supporting evidence as to what the message settings might have been."



Joe Joseph

It must have taken them quite a while to twig that it even was in code, German being a jangle of consonants at the best of times. So you can imagine what sort of people they drafted in to crack it. Arthur Levinson, one of the code-breakers, remembers: "Anthropologists. Egyptologists, palaeontologists and even an occasional lawyer turned out to have the knack." Their descendants are still engaged in similar work today, only this time the Germans are on our side and the indecipherable messages concern such European Union matters as the euro and the harmonisation of European taxes.

It is quaint to see — among the riveting archive footage dug up for this four-part series — some film of Second World War German code-breakers undergoing training: they are sitting on a platform deciphering Morse code while the platform is rocked like a rodeo horse, so as to train them to decipher Morse code under any conditions. Meanwhile their English counterparts were wearing blue pixie hoods on their beards and tossing the crockery into the lake. Maybe this behaviour was deliberately orchestrated to wrong-foot the enemy (First German Spy: "I think this Bletchley place is the nerve centre of Britain's code-breaking operations." Second German Spy: "Have you seen what that guy over there with that baby's blue pixie hood? I'll bet you a hundred marks that this is a lunatic asylum.")

But they weren't all code-breaking geniuses. Geoffrey Tandy, a marine biologist, was among the first to be recruited. Nigel Forward, a Bletchley code-breaker, recalls how Tandy joined the team: "He was an expert in cryptogams. They're a very elementary form of biological life. And somebody said, 'Ah, cryptograms, that's what we want' and sent him to Bletchley with the slight error that they were really looking for people who were good at crypto*GRAMS*." But Tandy probably survived without anybody even noticing. Compared with wearing pixie hoods and tossing coffee cups in the lake, being able to hold forth on the subject of elementary biological lifeforms must have seemed quite normal.

Another hard nut to crack: why are people who are stinking rich often so unhappy (obviously poor people are often even unhappier; much unhappier). *The Richest Little Girl in the World* (ITV) inspected the Onassis family curse of unhappiness that hangs over 13-year-old Athina — Christina's daughter, Aristotle's granddaughter — like a pigeon waiting to poop. When the young Athina said that she liked the nursery rhyme *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, Christina did the motherly thing of buying Athina her own flock of sheep to play with. Christina herself never found the right little boy that lives down the lane, although she did buy several others that didn't work out. Athina is young, but already very smart. Smart enough to remark that: "If I burn the money there will be no problem. No money, no problem." Sometimes it's the simplest solutions that crack the code.

Final mystery of the evening: the Japanese. In *Great Railway Journeys* (BBC2), Fergal Keane travelled from one end of Japan to the other and detected a mood of change in the Japanese people: "By my journey's end I had a feeling that the tyranny of the group would not survive here. Japan becoming a society of individuals — now that's an exciting journey." The trouble is Japan always seems to visitors as if it is at the crossroads, that everything is about to change, that traditions are melting like an ice-cube in your palm. But they never do. When the war was over, all the Bletchley staff were reassigned to trying to fathom what makes the Japanese tick. That man with the pixie hood has been working flat out and still hasn't cracked this one.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (50372)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (96001)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8445469)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (5818339)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (7777933)
11.00 Real Rooms (7787310)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7764469)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1980865)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (67440)
12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (25952)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (60448)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (86478469)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (65158285)
2.05 Ironside (r) (7441759)
2.55 Going for a Song (8336914)
3.20 The Weather Show (T) (2767865)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (2520894) **3.45** Little Monsters (9852865) **3.50** ChuckleVision (8869827) **4.10** See It Saw It (3584579) **4.35** The Wild House (1493001) **5.00** Newsround (5230730) **5.10** Blue Peter (6370285)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (608198)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (391)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (643)



The leopard is perfectly adapted for hunting at night (7pm)

7.00 Wildlife on One Insight into the nocturnal hunting techniques of the leopard, which relies on smell and hearing to capture its prey in pitch darkness (r) (T) (1488)
7.30 Dream House John Weir struggles to complete the grass roof (T) (827)
8.00 Changing Rooms Anna Ryder Richardson brings a little Miami glamour to a Catford living room (T) (9376)
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home A litter of puppies delivered by Caesarean section are given slim chances of survival (T) (980310)
8.50 National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories How rare footage of the *Titanic* was discovered (T) (859001)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (2339)
9.30 The X Files Part one. Mulder and Scully search desperately for clues to a series of mass killings in which UFO abductees are being burnt alive (T) (687865)
10.15 CHOICE **Inside Story** New series. *Behind the scenes at* Billingsgate fish market (1/5) (T) (190049)
11.10 *Lust for Murder* **(TVM 1993)** FILM A man takes a holiday with his wife, little realising *she intends to make it a vacation he'll* never forget. Starring Virginia Madsen *and* Richard Thomas. Directed by Nathaniel Gutman (T) (282339)
12.35am Moving Target (TVM 1988) FILM A teenage boy returns home from summer *camp to find* his family missing. Thriller, starring Jason Bateman. Directed by Chris Thompson (T) (9705268)
2.00 Weather (9304518)
2.05 BBC News 24 (74142976)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Dilly the Dinosaur (2966097) **7.05** Teletubbies (2703204) **7.30** Secret Squirrel and Co (3682136) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (2006778) **8.15** Rewind (8485136) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9636556) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (8915339) **8.50** Brum (8904223) **9.00** Images of Skye (7831594) **9.10** What? Where? When? Why? (7811730) **9.25** The Art (6263310) **9.45** Words and Pictures (8018846) **10.00** Teletubbies (90339) **10.30** Numbertime (5677730) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (5672285) **11.00** Around Scotland (1239594) **11.20** The Geography Programme (6256575) **11.40** Science in Action (2088117) **12.00pm** Revista (4756865) **12.15** Hallo aus Berlin (9131117) **12.30** Working Lunch (23594) **1.00** Brum (73449914)
1.10 *The Antiques Show* (T) (82345778)
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show (65179778)
2.10 Indoor Bowls: World Championship Further second-round action (22985952)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8728117)
2.45 Westminster The latest parliamentary news (T) (6619914)
3.55 News; Weather (T) (9353049)
4.00 Indoor Bowls: World Championship More from the second round (1469)
5.00 Tennis: Australian Open The key action from the third day (1001)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation The crew suffer amnesia (r) (T) (511440)
6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (T) (948865)
7.30 *Tales from the Riverbank* (r) (T) (469)
8.00 Battle of the Sexes The fight for paternity in the animal kingdom (T) (8778)
8.30 Home Front Anne McKevitt shows a young couple how to transform two small rooms into a kitchen/diner (T) (7285)
9.00 CHOICE **Mersey Blues** Dramatic footage following the Merseyside police force in their efforts to contain wars over drug territories (T) (449391)



Ben and Jerry, who started their own ice-cream company (9.50pm)

9.50 CHOICE **Blood on the Carpet** Two hippies who fought the giant conglomerate Häagen-Dazs by producing rival ice-cream (2/6) (T) (286285)
10.28 Whitbread Shorts (T) (740575)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (333952)
11.15 Picture This Poignant film capturing a cancer victim's final wishes (974372)
11.45 10x10 Short drama about a great-uncle with an unusual diet (T) (272830)
11.55 Weather (640204)
12.00am Despatch Box Political news (33773)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Passing Judgements **1.00** The British Family: Sources and Myths **1.30** The French Revolution: Impact and Sources **2.00** Schools: Languages **4.00** Get By in French **5.00** Business and Training: Voluntary Matters **5.30** 20 Steps to Better Management **5.45** Open University: TV **6.35** A Language for Movement

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (96662)
6.00 GMTV (6560594)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3334865)
10.30 This Morning (T) (24901575)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (9128643)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (10020)
1.00 WEST: Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents are in Clevedon, where they review local developments (91556)
1.00 WALES: Shortland Street Jenny buries the hatchet (91556)
1.30 Snooker: Nations Cup Live coverage *from Newcastle as the Republic of Ireland* take on Northern Ireland (T) (55237407)
3.15 *ITN News Headlines* (T) (2755020)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2752933)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2742556) **3.35** Teddybears (8291778) **3.45** Jumanji (8200488) **4.10** Whizzawig (9346759) **4.40** Mad for It (7878391)
5.10 A Country Practice Esme and Perce embark on a quest (7957402)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (246407)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (200846)
6.00 Home and Away Sally does a spot of matchmaking (T) (588136)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (418914)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (810372)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (339)
7.00 *Emmerdale Graham confesses he loves* Rachel (T) (6556)
7.30 Coronation Street Vera looks for a job (T) (223)



John Nettles and Daniel Casey star as Barnaby and Troy (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Midsomer Murders** New series. When a local property developer is violently murdered, Barnaby and Troy set out to find a motive for the killing. Starring John Nettles, Daniel Casey, Richard Briers and Judy Parfitt. Includes Lottery Result (1/4) (T) (6643)
10.00 *News at Ten;* Weather (T) (93865)
10.30 *HTV News and Weather* (T) (632865)
10.40 *Snooker: Nations Cup Highlights of the* Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland (5738372)
11.45 WEST: Renegade Reno protects his *former karate teacher from a* revenge-bent fellow alumnus (820198)
11.45 WALES: *The Front Row* Welsh Rugby Union Challenge Trophy (820198)
12.40am Between Love and Hate (1993) FILM Drama about a teenager who becomes a swimming *instructor while on vacation* from college and falls for the mother of one of *his students. Susan Lucci stars.* Directed by Rod Hardy (844150)
2.20 Masterclass With *the comedy writer* Carla Lane (9723686)
2.45 *Judge Judy Real-life cases* (45173)
3.15 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (156605)
4.15 Pure Lethal Behind the scenes of the Lethal Weapon films (r) (3360421)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (31708632)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (66666)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News (6744391)
1.00-1.30 Echo Point (91556)
3.20-3.25 Central News (2752933)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7957402)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (418914)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (632865)
2.55-3.15am Judge Judy (6622792)
4.15 Central Jobfinder '99 (8951082)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4088957)

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News (9128643)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (6752310)
1.00-1.30 Emmerdale (91556)
3.20-3.25 Westcountry News (2752933)
5.08 Birthday People (8359440)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7957402)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (35339)
10.30-10.40 Westcountry News (632865)
11.45-12.40 Anatomy Of Disaster (820198)

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30pm Meridian News (9128643)
1.00-1.30 Shortland Street (91556)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7957402)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (759)
6.30-7.00 Birdwatch (339)
10.30-10.40 Meridian News (632865)
11.45-12.40 Baywatch Nights (820198)
5.00-5.30am Freescreen (66666)

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6730198)
12.20-12.30 Anglia News (6744391)
1.00-1.30 Save Your Bacon (91556)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7957402)
6.23 Anglia Weather (811001)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (418914)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (737001)
10.30-10.40 Anglia News (632865)
11.40 Crime Night (756204)
11.55-12.40 Tales from the Crypt (735681)

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (21546759) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47768594) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Antoine De Caunes Tour de France (16329440) **9.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat** (89396594) **9.45 Book Box** (89391049) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (35534759) **10.15 All About Us** (35540310) **10.30 The French Programme** (17022933) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (93705001) **11.00 Dwr Aer Tir** (18808204) **11.15 Tackling Technology** (18898827) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (24624049) **12.00pm Bewitched** (T) (16349204) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38341778) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (47761681) **1.30 Roots to Success** (T) (69612681) **1.45 FILM: A Day of Thanks on Walton Mountain** (T) (34023020) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56021285) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (56033020) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (56039204) **5.00 Planed Plant** (64232074) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56020556) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (69909846) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95601643) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (88632830) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56030933) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (68832038) **8.30 Pacio** (T) (83682335) **9.00 Celebrity ER** (r) (T) (48520038) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (54898846) **10.35 Celebrity ER** (r) (T) (36164643) **11.30 Mark Thomas Comedy Product** (T) (35478865) **12.00am Comedy Lab** (52904247) **12.30 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (64208599) **2.55 Trans World Sport** (47711570) **3.55 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (76310)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (29339)
9.00 Schools: French Express (70914) **9.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (8015759) **9.45** Book Box (8003914) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9225952) **10.15** All About Us (9215575) **10.30** Channel Hopping (3987310) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (2499643) **11.00** First Edition VI (6247827) **11.15** Tackling Technology (6260778)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (6914)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (90778)
12.30 Bewitched (T) (18662)
1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (99198)
1.30 Earthscape (79845914)
1.35 Good Morning, Miss Dove (1955) FILM Sentimental drama, starring Jennifer Jones as a dedicated American schoolteacher recalling the events of her life as she undergoes hospital treatment. Directed by Henry Koster (T) (20934759)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace The flamenco guitarist Paco Pena gets stage fright at the music festival (T) (117)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (952)
4.30 Countdown (T) (1487440)
4.55 Ricki Lake Guests who suffered humiliation at school (T) (4505198)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (488)
6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Rick Stein and Alan Titchmarsh join the fun with *Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc* (T) (26681)
7.00 *Channel 4 News; Weather* (T) (193488)
7.50 Music of the Millennium Republica *vocalist Saffron picks her favourite song* of all time (T) (722198)
8.00 Brookside Nikki has a distressing flashback (T) (3846)
8.30 The Best of the Real Holiday Show Compilation of memorable features from past episodes (r) (T) (5681)
9.00 Celebrity ER Benton receives tragic news following a series of gruesome operations, and Dr Lewis looks after her substance-abusing sister. Directed by Quentin Tarantino (r) (T) (3933)



***Ewan McGregor (right) guest-stars* as an armed robber (10pm)**

10.00 Celebrity ER *Trainspotting* star Ewan McGregor guest-stars as a would-be thief who holds Hathaway hostage during a bungled robbery at a local superstore (r) (T) (193136)
10.55 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Topical comedy (T) (203372)
11.30 *Comedy Lab Performance by Lenny* Beige. Last in series (T) (74391)
12.00am *boardstupid Goes Skiing Round* two of the World Downhill (r) (28841)
12.30 *Football Italia: Mezzanotte* Round-up of the week's action (83927792)
2.55 *Trans World Sport* (8827334)
3.55 Kabaddi Asian sports (14059686)
4.25 *Sonja Henie: An Intimate Portrait of the Queen of Ice* Documentary detailing *the remarkable career of ice-skater and* actress Sonja Henie (r) (1228452)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (7673049)
7.00 WideWorld Part nine. The vast number of plant and animal species inhabiting *Hawaii* (r) (T) (9761952)
7.30 Milkshake! (6257335)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (9492865)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1832556)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (1831827)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (1855407)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6284001)
10.20 Sunset Beach Tim tells Sara he's lost his job (T) (2899049)
11.10 Leeza (r) (2779575)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (1835643)
12.30 *Family Affairs Dusty pulls strings* to get Yasmin a job (r) (T); 5 News Update (9601372)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jessica *gets an unexpected visitor* (T) (9760223)
1.30 The Roseanne Show with Montel *Williams, Phoebe Snow, Michael* McDonald and Wendell Brown (9600643)
2.00 *100 Per Cent Gold* (6021643)
2.30 Good Afternoon (4220407)
3.30 Joe Dancer: The Monkey Mission (TVM 1981) FILM A private detective is commissioned to steal a priceless antique — and recruits a monkey to help him to pull it off. Thriller, starring Robert Blake and Keenan Wynn. Directed by Burt Brinckerhoff (9304198)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (6853827)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (5982952)
6.30 Family Affairs Dave confesses his love for Holly (T) (5973204)
7.00 5 News; Weather. Round-up of the day's stories (T) (6032759)
7.30 Champions of the Wild A project to restore many indigenous species to an area of West Africa (T); 5 News Update (5979488)
8.00 Wing and a Prayer Gary's defence is weakened further by the shocking arrest of Clive Dennis, and Yasmin represents a teenager accused of blinding his girlfriend in one eye. Meanwhile, Simon Hudson learns a valuable lesson while defending an old man charged with attempted robbery (2/8) (T); 5 News Update (5200556)
9.00 Crossworlds (1996) FILM A college student unwittingly holds the future of the Universe in his hands by taking possession of a rare crystal with the power to open portals to other dimensions. Sci-fi adventure, starring Rutger Hauer, Josh Charles and Stuart Wilson. Directed by Krishna Rao (T); 5 News Update (12072440)
10.50 Not Melinda's Big Night In With the McGann Brothers (3117310)
11.30 Strange Luck Chance attracts an admirer during his investigation into a man's death (9467020)
12.25am NHL: American Ice Hockey Calgary *Flames at Detroit Redwings* (46476537)
4.40 Club Class Comedy show (r) (72371112)
5.05 Move On Up (r) (85358353)
5.30 *100 Per Cent* (r) (6257119)

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PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (49117) **7.30** The *Chris Evans Breakfast Show* (33198) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (12914) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (22001) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (57136) **11.00** Guilty! (37372) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (60049) **1.00** Mad About You (48488) **1.30** Jeopardy (40285) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (88858) **3.00** Jenny Jones (59469) **4.00** Guilty! (61204) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (9049) **6.00** Married — With Children (6681) **6.30** Friends (7933) **7.00** The *Simpsons* (2038) **7.30** The Simpsons (3117) **8.00** Stargate SG-1 (89198) **9.00** *The X-Files* (92662) **10.00** Naked in Westminster (32109) **11.00** Friends (62933) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (27778) **12.30am** Highlander (78570) **1.30** Long Play (5731624)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Trial and Error (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **The Wings of the Dove (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **The Borrowers (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) ***One Night Stand* (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm *Detour* **(1945)** (8724049) **7.15** Outrageous Taxi Stories (3362865) **8.00** *Dead of Night* **(1945)** (7029488) **10.00 The Dead Zone (1983)** (9448001) **12.00am Nikita (1990)** (7138088) **2.00 The Crow (1994)** (1013570) **3.45 The Man Without a Face (1993)** (48357179) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Moby Dick (1997) (160575) **8.30** *Napoleon and Samantha* **(1972)** (76579) **10.00 Cocoon: The Return (1988)** (43372) **12.00pm Moby Dick (1997)** (76372204) **2.25 Napoleon and Samantha (1972)** (833556) **4.00 Cocoon: The Return (1988)** (97851223) **5.55 Legend of the Ruby Silver (1996)** (50590310) **7.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (6827) **8.00 Absolute Power (1997)** (55092) **10.00** *The Glimmer Man* **(1996)** (672769) **11.35 The Crossing Guard (1995)** (800730) **1.25am Dead Man Walking (1995)** (81488402) **3.30 It Lucy Fell (1996)** (807150)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.35am Jane Eyre (1996) (49552759) **7.30** UK Top 10 (46020) **8.00** Femmes Fatales Thurman (46339) **8.30** Movie Magic (30310) **9.00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues Down the Amazon (1994)** (88894) **11.00 Emma (1996)** (28058) **1.00pm** UK Top 10 (33556) **1.30** Femmes Fatales (8148391) **2.15** Movie Magic (3697643) **3.00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues Down the Amazon (1994)** (21694) **5.00** *American Hot Wax* **(1978)** (22391) **7.00 Emma (1996)** (54049) **9.00 Lethal Tender (1996)** (54321) **11.00 House of Frankenstein: Part One (1997)** (56778) **12.30am A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)** (611470) **2.05 The Kremlin Letter (1970)** (637624) **4.05 Switch in Time (1987)** (5105518)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Flesh and Fury (1952) (8754556) **6.00 The Magnificent Ambersons (1942)** (7132469) **8.00 The Big Red One (1980)** (7133198) **10.00 Hang 'Em High (1968)** (8043339) **11.55 Two for the Road (1967)** (9498223) **1.50am Days of Glory (1944)** (39126537) **3.20** The Directors: Terry Gilliam (2919537) **4.20 Too Many Girls (1940)** (2172727)

TNT

9.00pm Amelia Earhart: The Final Flight (1994) (40883778) **11.00 Operation Crossbow (1965)** (77287865) **1.15am Shaft's Big Score (1972)** (60356357) **3.00 Amelia Earhart: The Final Flight (1994)** (51380696) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** You're On Sky Sports! **10.00** Total Sport **10.30** Inside Scottish Football **11.30** Fastrax **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** Premier Snooker League **2.30** World Windsurfing **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Boxing Superbouts **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Unbelievable Sports **7.00** World Pool League **8.00** Ringside **9.00** Boxing **9.30** Unbelievable Sports **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **10.45** World Pool League **11.45** Sports Centre **12.00am** You're On Sky Sports! **12.30** Ringside Boxing **2.00** Spanish Football **4.00** Sports Centre **4.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** World Windsurfing **10.30** Cricket **1.00pm** Golf Extra **4.00** Premier Snooker League **6.00** Watersports World **7.00** Golf Extra **10.00** Motorcycling **11.00** Live Cricket

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Boxing Superbouts **3.00** Olympic Series: Road to Nagano **3.30** Total Sport **4.00** *Fastrax* **4.30** *Women's Golf* **5.30** European Tour Golf Weekly **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** Spanish Football **10.00** Sky Sports Classics Gold. Nigel Mansell — IndyCar **11.00** Football: The Entertainers **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally **8.00** Live Tennis **7.30pm** Live Football **10.00** Rally **10.30** Tennis **11.30** Boxing **12.00am** Rally **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Yes, Minister **9.00** One Foot in the Grave **9.40** Jonathan Creek **10.55** French and Saunders **11.35** The Bill **12.05am** The Bill **12.35** Backup **1.50** Night Voice **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** That's My Boy **8.30** *Up the Garden Path* **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Agony **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Brian Conley Show **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** *Hogan's Heroes* **11.00** *Granada Men and Motors*



Linus Roache and Helena Bonham Carter star in Iain Softley's romantic drama *The Wings of the Dove* (Sky Box Office 2)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** *Spot* **9.05** *Animal Shelf* **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** Spot **12.05** *Animal Shelf* **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Tots TV **1.30** Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** Quack Pack **2.30** *New Adventures of Winnie the* Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art *Attack* **4.00** *101 Dalmatians* **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00** *FILM: Just Like Dad* **(1995)** **9.35** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** *PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness* **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Pippi Longstocking **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Driven Crazy **7.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.30** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** *Spiderman* **9.00** *X-Men* **9.25** *Fantastic Four* **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.15** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** *Life with Louie* **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The *Incredible Hulk* **3.30** *Roy and Lisa's Big Ride* **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana. The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** *Donkey Kong Country* **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek! **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.30am City Guys **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **10.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** California Dreams **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Tempestt **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Echo Point **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* **4.30** *In the House* **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Blast **7.00** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** L.A.P.D. **9.30** Cops **10.00** *Extreme Championship* Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Series **11.00 FILM: Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise (1987)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.30** Scary Sex **2.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.30** Cops **3.00** *FILM:* **Best of the Best II (1993)** **5.00** L.A.P.D. **5.30** *Bushido* **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** News Radio **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Vic Reeves Big Night Out **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Wings **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The *Incredible Hulk* **5.00** *Sightings* **6.00** *Time Trax* **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Flash **9.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **10.00 FILM: Lawnmower Man II: Beyond Cyberspace** **11.45** *Sci-Focus* **12.00am** *PSI Factor Chronicles of the Paranormal* **1.00 FILM: Halloween II (1981)** **2.45** Sci-Focus **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Garden Rescue **10.00** Bloom **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country. Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **12.30** Doing It Up *1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 Wood* Wizard **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Fightline **5.30** Turning Points **6.00** *Animal Doctor* **6.30** *Secrets of* the Humpback Whale **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World **8.30** Creatures Fantastic **9.00** Mysteries of the Ancients **10.00** Sky Archaeology **11.00** Ferrari **12.00am** *Mysteries of the East* **1.00** Turning Points **1.30** Fightline **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Totally Australia: A Stately Gift **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** All Bird TV **2.30** HumanNature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Animal Planet Classics. Australia — Out West Down Under **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Horse Tales **9.00** Going Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Sea Elephants' Beach **7.30** MiR 18: Destination Space **8.00** Alligator! **9.00** Rubbish Police **9.30** Looters! **10.00** African Diary: Reflections on Elephants **11.00** Arabia: Mountain Barrier **12.00am** Extreme Earth: Earthquake **12.30** Extreme Earth: Landslide!

HISTORY

4.00pm The World at War: Tough Old Gut **5.00** Classic Cars: *Turbine* **6.00** *Lost Civilizations. Greece — A Moment of* Excellence **7.00** Duel Weapon

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Feasts of the World **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Retrospectives *1.00 Food for Thought* **1.30** From the Ground Up **2.00** Caribbean Light **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Philbert the Frog **6.30** Johnson and Friends **6.45** Tiny Tales **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** *Tiny Tales* **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Diet Show **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** *Rescue 911* **1.10** *Special Babies* **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.40** Rolanda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Murder Call **9.00 FILM: Saved by the Light (1995)** **11.00** *Sar Lite Down Under* **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Sofia **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Urdu Movie** **180** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Campus **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Gumrah **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baat Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Hawaain **10.30** Antaree **11.00** Mujhe Chaand **11.30** About You **12.00am** News **12.30** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Raahat **2.00 FILM: Urdu Movie: Raj Kumar** **4.30** Vat No Vatessan

MOTOR RALLYING 42
McRae defies critics with focused Monte Carlo display

SPORT

FOOTBALL 40
Tribal welcome in store for Iroha at Watford



Baister brokers peace deal

England back down over Five Nations

BY MARK SOUSTER

AFTER 24 hours that bordered on farce and after what appears nothing less than a humiliating climbdown, England were readmitted to the Five Nations Championship yesterday. Brian Baister, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) chairman, acted as peacemaker by flying to Glasgow to deliver a letter to Allan Hosie that set out the unqualified acceptance of the accord that had originally been signed in 1996.

Once it had been accepted that the ten-year accord, which details the distribution of television revenue, was legally binding and enforceable, Hosie, the chairman of the Five Nations Committee, agreed that a meeting should be held as soon as possible to address RFU concerns on aspects of the agreement. Any amendment would be put before the committee for approval. England will be represented by Francis Baron, the RFU chief executive, Bill Beaumont, Graeme Cattermole and Malcolm Phillips.

There was widespread relief that a settlement had been reached, but also dismay — especially within England — that the situation had been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent. Baister, who met Hosie with Beaumont, said that the solution was "in the best interests of the game, supporters, players, broadcasters and sponsors". Baron said: "We can now move ahead, work with the committee and enjoy an excellent championsip."

The Welsh, Irish and Scottish unions also expressed their pleasure that the championship will go ahead as planned on February 6. England's opening match is against Scotland at Twickenham on February 20.

Hosie said: "I'm delighted that we are all party to the accord. The Five Nations Championship without the participation of England would not have been the same. It is the start of a new beginning, where all unions will play their part."

In the short term, one crisis has been averted, but the damage done to the RFU's credibility and reputation in the longer term may be more serious. There are suggestions that members of the RFU Council are unhappy with the management's handling of the affair. Talk of Celtic conspiracies may have a kernel of truth, but the bottom line remains that the RFU has shown a remarkable capacity in recent times for confrontation that has blighted relations with the other home unions.

The fact that, when pressure was exerted, England buckled asks the question why they could not have falled into line a day earlier. The reason for that emerged yesterday, and possibly places a question mark against the relationship between Baister and Baron.

It is now clear that England had been ready to give the necessary assurances on Monday afternoon, but a sequence of events which suggest a "cock-up" rather than a conspiracy prevented them from doing so.

In a telephone conversation with Hosie, Baister assured the former international referee that England would back the accord without condition, yet, at the same time, Richard Prescott, the RFU media relations manager, was authorised to release a press statement that referred to the same conditions regarding French television contracts and Italy's future participation, which had so incensed the Five Nations Committee. Hoise wondered what was going on, concluded the worst and expelled England.

There are hawks on the RFU Council who would rather that England had not backed down, but for all the posturing it was inconceivable, if only for financial reasons, that the championship would proceed without their involvement. The stance of Lloyds TSB may also have proved critical. It was made clear to Roger Pickering, the chief executive of the Five Nations, at a meeting in London yesterday that unless the impasse was broken, the bank would review — and probably withdraw from — its £12 million, three-year sponsorship deal that also takes in the World Cup. "Without England the value is reduced substantially," a spokesman said.

The climbdown was announced at 4pm after Baister had landed in Glasgow at 1.20pm and linked with Beaumont, who had driven from Lancashire, for a "conciliatory pint and a chat," with Hosie. They met as questions were being asked in the House of Commons about the chaotic nature of English rugby administration. "The men who control English rugby have egos ten times bigger than a player's jockstrap," Denis MacShane, the Labour MP for Rotherham, said. "They are betraying the interests of the average fan."



Road to failure........................41
Loose Talk........................41



• Gough is congratulated on a job well done by his captain, Stewart, after reducing Sri Lanka to 21 for four with a bristling burst of top-class bowling

Inspired Gough strikes vital blows

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (Sri Lanka won toss): England beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets

ENGLAND needed fewer than 15 overs to put this match in the bag and record their fourth win out of five in the triangular tournament. By the time Darren Gough retired from the attack, after bowling a superb new-ball spell that brought four good wickets, they had knocked the stuffing out of Sri Lanka. Ranatunga played nobly for his 76 but his bowlers could not defend a total of 186.

It was Ranatunga's first half-century against England in 14 one-day internationals, a peculiarly thin record for so good a player. The portly skipper, "Captain Cool", shuffled up and down the pitch in that deceptively languid manner and rebuilt his team's innings from the ruins of 21 for four. He found support from Chandana, who made 50. The rest was a mess.

Hick, maintaining the form that he found in Sydney last Sunday, batted England through to victory with an undefeated 66 after the openers had fallen to successive balls from Zoysa, an over apart. Ranatunga missed him at extra cover on 13, just as Steve Waugh had failed to accept a chance in Sydney when he was 23. In this mood, it is best to get rid of Hick before he settles. Once he had done so, he played very well.

Crawley, taking the place of Fairbrother, who has an injured shoulder, was his partner in the closing stages after Hussain, trying to master Muralitharan, was stumped on the charge. England could afford to pace their reply at a leisurely rate, so well had their bowlers performed earlier in the day.

Gough was outstanding. As he comes towards the end of a long tour, on which he has been England's most notable performer, he is bowling better than he can ever have done. Proud, committed and — most important — fully fit, he looks a world-class fast bowler. In game after game he is carrying England's banner.

In his opening burst here, helped by a lively pitch, he looked a terrific sight. He ripped out Sri Lanka's powerful top order by taking four wickets for five runs in 21 balls, figures that told no trace of a fib.

His first wicket was the best, because the world knows Jayasuriya to be a cracking batsman. Gough offered him no room to smash through cover, as he likes, and he got increasingly agitated at his lack of progress. When he drove to Hussain at backward point, one of two men placed within ten yards of each other for such a stroke, he had made one run from 17 balls.

Little Kaluwitharana, the titch of an opener, was bowled by one that nipped back a shade as he tried to attack it. That also was the stroke of a frustrated batsman. Atapattu, who is no slouch, edged a forcing stroke of no distinction to second slip, where Hick made a sharp catch look easy. When he defeated Tillekeratne, Gough had a fourth success. It was splendid stuff.

Ranatunga and Chandana gave the colourful Sri Lankan contingent something to cheer as they shared 92 runs for the sixth wicket.

The flags were unfurled, and there was plenty of good-natured noise from the lower slopes of the enormous southern stand, just the other side of the road from Melbourne Park, where the tennis players were entertaining another record crowd at the Australian Open.

Whatever sting the match had in those early stages had been drawn by the time Crawley joined Hick to score the last 70 runs. Sri Lanka have now lost all three games in this competition. Should they lose in Hobart tomorrow, and England beat them in Adelaide on Saturday, they will have travelled in vain.

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Hussain b Gough.... 1
(17 balls)
†R S Kaluwitharana b Gough.......... 15
(20 balls, 3 fours)
M S Atapattu c Hick b Gough.......... 1
(11 balls)
H P Tillekeratne b Gough.......... 0
(13 balls)
D P M D Jayawardena c Stewart b Hollioake.......... 12
(38 balls, 1 four)
*A Ranatunga run out (Hussain/Gough) 76
(105 balls, 5 fours)
U D U Chandana c Wells b Croft.... 50
(68 balls, 3 fours)
G P Wickremasinghe b Hollioake.... 8
(10 balls, 1 four)
W P U C J Vaas not out.......... 11
(15 balls)
M Muralitharan c Hussain b Mullally... 1
(3 balls)
D N T Zoysa run out (Ealham/Mullally)...0
(0 balls)
Extras (lb 8, w 3).......... 11
Total (50 overs, 205min).......... 186

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (Kaluwitharana 6), 2-19 (Atapattu 0), 3-20 (Tillekeratne 0), 4-21 (Jayawardena 1), 5-48 (Ranatunga 16), 6-140 (Ranatunga 54), 7-158 (Ranatunga 62), 8-180 (Vaas 6), 9-184 (Vaas 9).

BOWLING: Gough 10-3-28-4 (4 fours; 7-3-10-4, 3-0-18-0); Mullally 10-2-23-1 (w 3; 1 four; 8-2-12-0, 2-0-11-1); Hollioake 9-0-46-2 (4 fours; 7-0-34-1, 2-0-12-1); Ealham 10-0-32-0 (1 four; 8-0-24-0, 2-0-8-0); Croft 8-0-29-4 (1 four; one spell); Wells 3-0-20-0 (2 fours; one spell).
Score after 15 overs: 27 for 4.

ENGLAND

N V Knight c Jayasuriya b Zoysa.... 31
(36 balls; 2 fours)
*†A J Stewart c Ranatunga b Zoysa. 20
(35 balls, 3 fours)
G A Hick not out.......... 66
(101 balls, 3 fours)
N Hussain st Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan.......... 29
(51 balls, 3 fours)
J P Crawley not out.......... 31
(52 balls, 1 four)
Extras (lb 2, w 7, nb 3).......... 12
Total (3 wkts, 45.2 overs, 189min)...189

V J Wells, A J Hollioake, M A Ealham, R D B Croft, D Gough and A D Mullally did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-52 (Stewart 19), 2-53 (Hick 0), 3-115 (Hick 29).

BOWLING: Vaas 10-0-39-0 (nb 1; 3 fours; 4-0-21-0, 2-0-7-0, 2-0-8-0, 2-0-3-0), Wickremasinghe 10-0-35-0 (w 1; 1 four; 7-0-22-0, 3-0-13-0); Zoysa 8-1-22-2 (w 1; 1 four; one spell); Muralitharan 10-0-40-1 (nb 2; 4 fours; 5-0-23-0, 3-0-10-1, 2-0-7-0); Chandana 7.2-0-38-0 (w 2; 3 fours; 2-0-5-0, 2-0-12-0, 3-0-16-0, 0.2-0-5-0); Jayasuriya 2-0-13-0 (w 2; one spell).
Score after 15 overs: 60 for 2.
Match award: D Gough.
Umpires: D J Harper and T A Prue.
Referee: P L van der Merwe (South Africa).
Attendance: 14,979.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS: Jan 10: England beat Australia by 7 runs (revised target) (Brisbane). Jan 11: England beat Sri Lanka by 4 wickets (Brisbane). Jan 15: Australia beat England by 9 wickets (Melbourne). Jan 17: England beat Australia by 7 runs (Sydney).

	P	W	L	Pts
England	5	4	1	8
Australia	4	2	2	4
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	0

ENGLAND MATCHES TO COME: Jan 23: v Sri Lanka (Adelaide); Jan 26: v Australia (Adelaide); Jan 29: v Sri Lanka (Perth); Feb 3: v Sri Lanka (Sydney); Feb 5: v Australia (Sydney). Feb 10: First final (Sydney); Feb 12: Second final (Melbourne); Feb 14: Third final (Melbourne).

□ Compiled by Bill Frindall

Courier's outburst fans flames of Korda case

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

THE fragile dam restraining fallout from Petr Korda's failed steroid test collapsed under a tidal wave of rancour here yesterday. As Korda controversially opened the defence of his Australian Open title by beating Galo Blanco, of Spain, his fellow players were lancing old wounds and carving fresh ones. The root cause was a mishandling of the Korda issue by all parties — not least the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour.

The day of reckoning opened with Jim Courier, of the United States, voicing suspicions that blood-doping was prevalent among European players. The views of Courier, a former world No 1, were denounced as "sad", "ridiculous" and "not very intelligent" by another former world No 1 in Thomas Muster, of Austria. He, in turn, lashed out at Mark Miles, the ATP Tour's chief executive officer.

Muster portrayed Miles as "a weak leader" of a "shocking organisation where the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing". And Greg Rusedski, earlier victorious over Scott Draper, revealed that the vast majority of the 200 or so attending the ATP Tour players' meeting here on Saturday had walked out before its conclusion because "they weren't getting any of their questions [about the Korda affair] answered".

Courier, who ventured on Monday that all players should be banned for steroid use, broadened his horizons on the doping issue yesterday. "I'm much more inclined to have a concern ... for blood doping," he said. "It's certainly prevalent in European sports. Most of the [tennis] Tour is in Europe, so, by deduction — and I'm throwing darts, I have no proof, I can't name names — it seems a logical way for a player to improve himself."

Courier said that he was referring specifically to Erythropoietin, or EPO, the natural growth hormone that increases endurance and was detected in some of the field in the Tour de France last year. "I know what my body is capable of," Courier added, "and I can't play for 35 weeks a year. I don't think anyone else can either, but they are. So I've deduced that there may be suspicious things going on."

Courier's outburst outraged Muster, himself accused by Boris Becker — who later apologised publicly — of taking drugs in 1995. "We are pretty much on the edge of destroying the sport by making comments like that," Muster said.

Korda: sparked controversy

"It is sad to hear someone who has been No 1 making these comments."

Muster was also critical of the ATP Tour's efforts to explain the Korda case to players last week. Korda escaped a one-year ban when an appeals committee found that "exceptional circumstances" existed in that he did not know how nandrolone, the offending steroid, came to be present in his system.

However, ATP Tour officials, Miles among them, were woefully inadequate in their explanations. Players remain under the misapprehension that there are exceptional circumstances about which they are still not aware. There are none, yet players believe that details have been withheld. The point was amplified by Rusedski, who said: "It is difficult for the players when they don't know what the exceptional circumstances were. We are out in the dark."

Miles would have resolved much of the players' confusion if he had made clear that the anti-doping rules are flawed. That is why Korda escaped sanction, even though the doping offence was proven.

The situation was exacerbated yesterday by Paul McNamee, tournament director of the Australian Open. Twice the International Tennis Federation requested permission for a press conference to explain the Korda case. Twice McNamee denied the request.

From the players' perspective, salient and cogent information has been in short supply. As Muster put it: "We have one proven case and we still cannot handle it."

Rusedski survives, page 40

Di Canio demands rejected

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAOLO DI CANIO, Sheffield Wednesday's Italian forward, has been passed fit to play again but the club are refusing to bow to all his demands. Di Canio, 30, who says he has been suffering from stress and depression, claimed through his representative, Moreno Roggi, that he would not be fit to return until January 31 at the earliest.

But two independent doctors, who saw Di Canio last Friday in his home town of Terni, have said that there is nothing to stop him resuming his career.

Di Canio was fined £68,000 by the club after his sending-off against Arsenal on September 26, when he shoved the referee, Paul Alcock.

The Football Association then imposed an 11-week ban and, since December 12, Wednesday have continued to fine him for each week he stayed in Italy. Unless he returns before Saturday, these fines will have reached £102,000.

A club statement yesterday said: "We are reassured the player is now fit to return to England. He has continued to train regularly during his absence and is well enough to commence training and play, if selected. However, the club does not believe it should agree to meet all of the conditions requested prior to the player's return to England.

"In view of this we have today requested him to return ... and suggested that the outstanding difficulty should be arbitrated by the appropriate tribunal, unless a compromise can be reached."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1619

ACROSS
1 Player of records (4,6)
8 One calling from minaret (7)
9 Pride (oneself): resentment (5)
10 Cook (bread) (4)
11 Top-of-column summary (8)
13 Body of singers (5)
14 Implements (5)
16 He wins Portia *(M of V)* (8)
17 A bird: a hardliner (4)
20 An animal; a deadly sin (5)
21 A dog; a voluntary soldier (7)
22 (Temperamental) leading lady (5,5)

DOWN
1 Discharge from army (5)
2 Wrongly anticipate (5,3,4)
3 Improvised music (4)
4 Have discussions (6)
5 Chase up, hurry along (8)
6 Ambiguous speech, hedging (12)
7 Virgil's Trojan hero (6)
12 One in pulpit (8)
13 Picasso, Braque style (6)
15 One hurt, swindled (6)
18 Burden of one's past *(Budd.)* (5)
19 Lattice (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1618
ACROSS: 8 Haulier 9 Iraqi 10 Aggregate 11 Kid 12 Tiger 14 Testify 15 Skimmed 17 Notch 19 Rye 20 Excalibur 22 Spout 23 New Deal
DOWN: 1 Thwart 2 Rung 3 Like grim death 4 Truant 5 Licensing laws 6 Backlist 7 Fiddly 13 Guide dog 15 Stress 16 Decant 18 Harold 21 Beet